

COMMUNITY SAFETY PERCEPTION

A Municipal Review of Perception
of Safety and Protective Habits in
Residential Areas

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land. We recognise the Traditional Owners of the lands on which our office is located and where our research and activities take place. As this work is undertaken to benefit all Victorians, we reaffirm that every community matters and that inclusion and respect are central to our purpose. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, recognising their enduring connection to Country and ongoing contributions to community life across Victoria.

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This report is prepared by Neighbourhood Watch Victoria in partnership with RACV.

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CEO Foreword

At Neighbourhood Watch Victoria, we are proud to present the Community Safety Perception: A Municipal Review of Perception of Safety and Protective Habits in Residential Areas—a first-of-its-kind analysis that shifts the focus from reported crime to the preventive behaviours Victorians are taking to feel safer at home.

While traditional crime statistics remain important, this report tells a more human story: how people feel about their safety, and what they do—or don't do—to protect themselves. It draws from over 8000 responses to our How Safe Is My House quiz, revealing patterns in behaviours like locking doors, installing security systems, and connecting with neighbours. These insights give us a powerful new way to understand what safety looks like in practice, not just on paper.

This is more than a snapshot—it's the beginning of a longitudinal data asset that will evolve and deepen over time. It will help Neighbourhood Watch Victoria, our long-time partner RACV, and other key stakeholders to design more responsive, effective safety initiatives rooted in what communities are already doing and where there are gaps.

We're proud of this work, and prouder still that it strengthens and extends the core mission of Neighbourhood Watch: empowering individuals with the knowledge, tools, and confidence to take action for their safety and that of their community.

This report is an important milestone—and a powerful reminder that feeling safe is as vital as being safe.

Bambi Gordon
Chief Executive Officer
Neighbourhood Watch Victoria



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Executive Summary

This report presents an analysis of community perceptions of home safety across Victoria, based on 8021 responses to the How Safe Is My House quiz collected between 2021 and 2024. Of these, 7348 valid Victorian responses were used in regional and state-level analyses. Participants provided a self-assessed safety rating (1 to 10) and reported on various home security behaviours.

In 2024, the Average Feel Safe Rating was 7.66, indicating a generally positive perception of home safety. Regional differences were observed, with Western Regional consistently reporting the highest scores and Western Metropolitan the lowest. The adoption of active security measures (e.g. CCTV, alarms) increased over time, while passive behaviours (e.g. locking doors) remained stable.

To enhance accessibility, the quiz was translated into five additional languages in 2023, supporting greater participation from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities. Earlier data may under-represent these groups, and comparisons over time should take this into account.

A margin of error of $\pm 0.61\%$ at a 95% confidence level was applied to state-level findings, with variation depending on regional sample sizes. The number of participants (N = participant number) values are provided throughout the report for transparency.

Key limitations include low response rates in some Local Government Areas (LGAs), the subjective nature of safety perceptions, and the influence of socioeconomic and language barriers on participation.

Future work will explore the impact of population density, socioeconomic context, and aim to improve coverage in under-represented areas. The quiz will also be updated to offer more nuanced and neutral response options, enhancing the quality and inclusivity of future data collection.

Introduction

Background

Capturing how safe individuals feel within their homes is a crucial component of public safety research. Perceptions of safety can significantly differ across locations and communities, regardless of actual crime rates or physical security measures. Through the data collected in our How Safe Is My House quiz, this project aims to bridge the gap between objective safety indicators and the subjective experiences of Victorians that participated in the quiz.

For over five years, the collaboration between RACV and Neighbourhood Watch Victoria has strengthened both organisations. This valued partnership has been instrumental in developing How Safe Is My Place - the Australian-first tool that empowers individuals with knowledge and inspires practical action to improve safety through target hardening. By capturing both how people feel and the actions they take to protect their homes, we can provide a more complete and nuanced picture of community safety across the state. The partnership delivers community trust with safety expertise to create lasting benefits for all.

Purpose

This initiative supports key stakeholders—including the Department of Justice, Victoria Police, RACV, and our organisation—in gaining a clearer understanding of how safe Victorians feel within their communities. It aims to strengthen cross-sector collaboration and drive improvements in public safety and community well-being across the state.

Mission

Our mission is to gain deeper insights into the behaviours of Victorians, particularly in relation to home security. By observing both active and passive strategies used to protect their properties, we aim to identify emerging patterns and inform the development of more effective, data-driven safety recommendations for the future.

Background

The Importance of Perceived Safety

Feeling safe is not solely dependent on crime statistics or the presence of security infrastructure—it is a deeply personal experience shaped by a range of factors, including individual history, social environment, socioeconomic background, and the behaviour of others in the neighbourhood. What one person defines as “safe” may look completely different to someone else based on their lived experience, access to resources, and level of trust in their community or institutions⁽¹⁾.

Two households in objectively similar areas may provide drastically different safety ratings—one may feel totally secure, while the other remains on edge. These differences highlight that perceptions of safety are often more complex than physical conditions alone. Recognising and quantifying these perceptions allows for a more inclusive, nuanced understanding of what community well-being truly looks like.

Active vs Passive Security Measures

When it comes to home safety, security behaviours can generally be divided into two categories: active and passive. Active security measures—such as installing CCTV, setting alarms, or using sensor lights—are deliberate and conscious actions taken to monitor or deter potential threats⁽²⁾. These measures are often technology-driven and reflect a heightened awareness of risk, giving individuals a sense of control and immediate reassurance that their home is being protected.

In contrast, passive security measures are more behavioural and often subconscious. These include habits like routinely locking the door, closing windows at certain times, or leaving a light on when stepping out—all done without explicitly thinking about security. These behaviours are often shaped by how someone was raised, cultural norms, or routines that naturally calm the nervous system. Because passive measures are less about intention and more about ingrained practice, they can take time to form and become consistent⁽³⁾. Interestingly, some individuals may rely heavily on active systems yet still expose themselves to risk by overlooking passive behaviours—simply because they haven’t internalised their importance or don’t see them as “real” security measures^(4,5). The balance between both types is essential for a truly secure home environment.

Methods

This study draws on data collected through the How Safe Is My House quiz, a digital tool designed to capture individual perceptions of home safety and common household security behaviours across Victoria. A total of 8021 responses were received between 2021 and 2024. Of these, 7348 responses contained valid Victorian postcodes and were included in the final analysis. The remaining 673 responses were excluded due to either invalid or out-of-state postcodes.

Data Collection and Analysis

Responses were collected and managed by Neighbourhood Watch through an online dashboard. At the beginning of the quiz, participants were asked:

"How safe do you feel when you are in your home?"

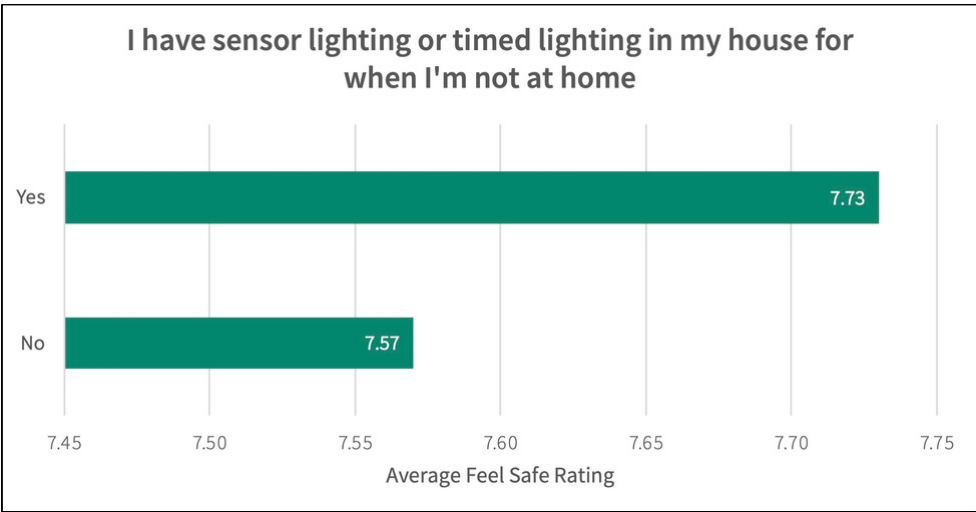
Participants responded on a sliding scale from 1 (Completely Unsafe) to 10 (Totally Safe), providing a self-assessed perception of safety. This "feel safe" rating served as a subjective benchmark to compare against actual safety behaviours reported in the quiz.

Participants then answered a series of multiple-choice questions about their home security measures—for example, whether they lock doors and windows, use security systems, maintain outdoor lighting, or engage with neighbours. These actions are well-established forms of "target hardening" that help deter potential intruders.

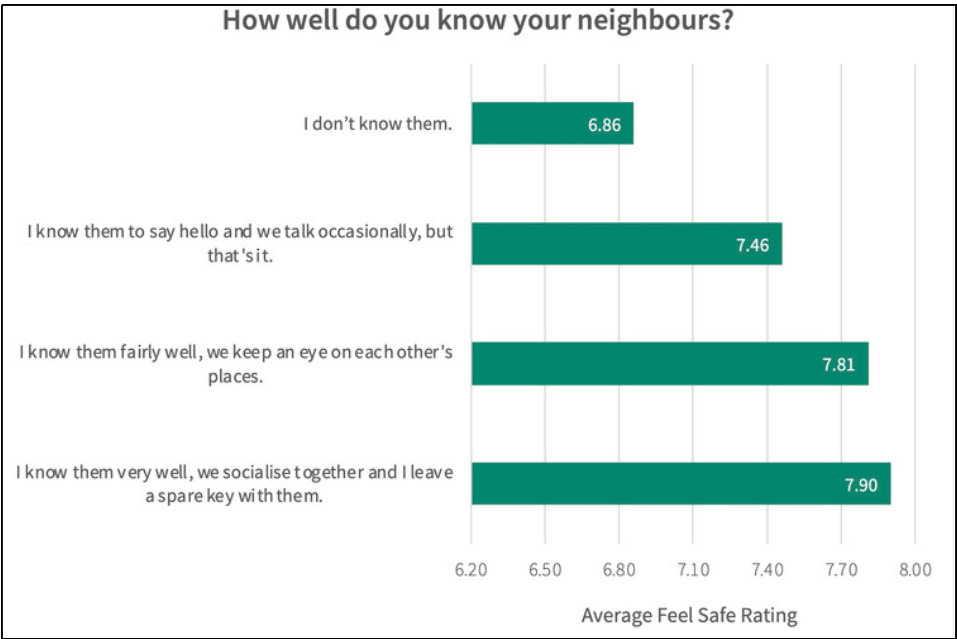
Each completed quiz generated a tailored safety report, but it also contributed to a broader dataset that allowed for deeper analysis. The next page includes one example each of an active and passive safety measure from the quiz. While these measures are not explored in detail in this report, they will be examined in future analysis. This report serves as foundational groundwork to understand the Feel Safe Rating and explore residents' perceptions across each LGA.

Methods

The following graphs present Victoria-wide data from 2020 to 2024, drawn from quiz responses across the state. These examples use different survey questions than those explored in the main body of the report, intentionally selected to illustrate the broader scope and potential of the dataset.



Example of an active security measure: Having a type of security system in place



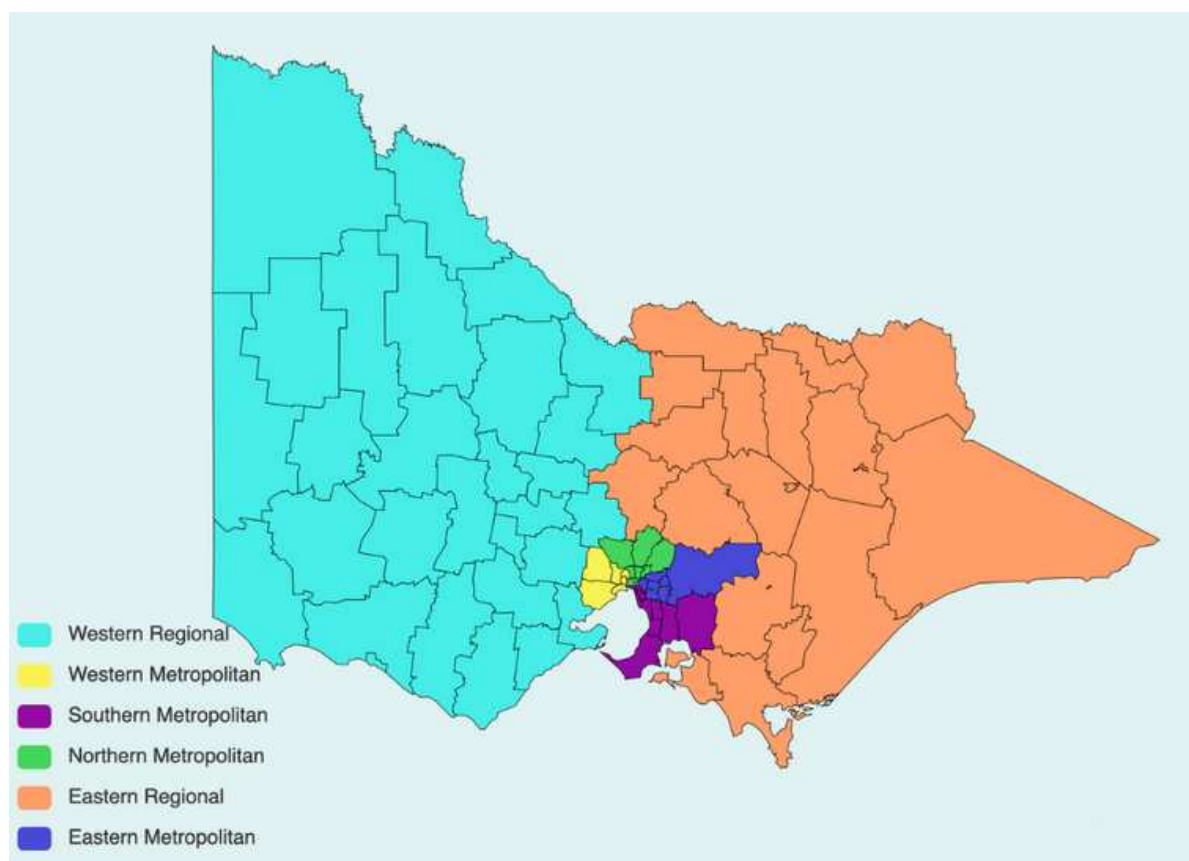
Example of a passive security measure: Knowing your neighbours

Methods

Geographic Context

Each response was geocoded using the participant's postcode, enabling regional and localised comparisons. Additionally, LGAs were flagged for the presence of a Neighbourhood Watch group, with a corresponding symbol used in regional visualisations. This spatial context helped explore potential associations between community engagement and perceptions or practices related to home safety.

The map shows how we divided the regions, using colour coding to distinguish between metropolitan and regional groupings for clearer interpretation.



Victorian LGAs by Region: How Safe Is My Place Framework

Methods

Geographic Categorisation

Due to the existence of multiple variations in map categorisation across councils, Victoria Police, and various government departments, this report adopts a generalised regional framework for clarity and consistency.

Victoria has been divided into two primary geographic areas:

- Metropolitan Melbourne, subdivided into:
 - **Eastern Metropolitan**
 - **Southern Metropolitan**
 - **Northern Metropolitan**
 - **Western Metropolitan**
- Regional Victoria, subdivided into:
 - **Eastern Region**
 - **Western Region**

This structure reflects commonly used administrative or service delivery boundaries and supports consistent, comparative analysis across metropolitan and regional areas. A breakdown of regions by LGA is contained in Appendix B.

Behavioural Indicators: Active vs Passive Measures

To further explore behavioural dimensions of home safety, two specific quiz questions were selected for comparison between 2021 and 2024:

1. “Does your home have any home security system?”

(Representing active security measures such as CCTV, alarms, or sensor lights)

2. “I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard.”

(Representing passive security behaviours that are routine or habitual in nature)

These questions were analysed to identify behavioural trends and shifts in household responses to perceived safety risks. They were chosen to reflect both intentional preventive actions and embedded security habits that may be shaped by upbringing, social norms, or nervous system regulation. A full list of the survey questions can be found in Appendix A (page 112).

Methods

Safety Rating Scale Explained

To better capture the nuanced and deeply personal nature of how safety is felt in the home, the quiz introduced a 1 to 10 self-assessment scale. Unlike objective crime statistics, this scale enables individuals to express their subjective sense of security, an experience shaped by both personal circumstances and local context.

Recognising that feelings of safety are rarely binary (e.g., safe vs. unsafe), this scaled approach allows for more accurate representation of varying degrees of confidence or concern.

To further enhance the quality and consistency of these insights, a pop-up window that explains what each rating entails will be introduced in future iterations of the quiz. This feature is intended to help systematise the way users interpret and engage with the scale, ensuring a more reflective and meaningful response.

Margin of Error and Data Transparency

Given the sample size of 7361 valid Victorian responses, a margin of error was calculated to assess the reliability of the Average Feel Safe Ratings. Assuming a 95% confidence level, the estimated margin of error is $\pm 0.61\%$ for state-level results. For smaller regional sample sizes, the margin of error may be slightly higher.

This margin of error should be taken into account when interpreting year-to-year changes or comparing regions with similar average safety scores. While the dataset provides a strong indication of community sentiment, small differences between regions or periods may fall within the margin of sampling variation and should not be overstated.

To ensure transparency, N= values have been included throughout the report to indicate the number of responses used in each analysis. This allows readers to assess the robustness of the data behind each insight and promotes informed interpretation.

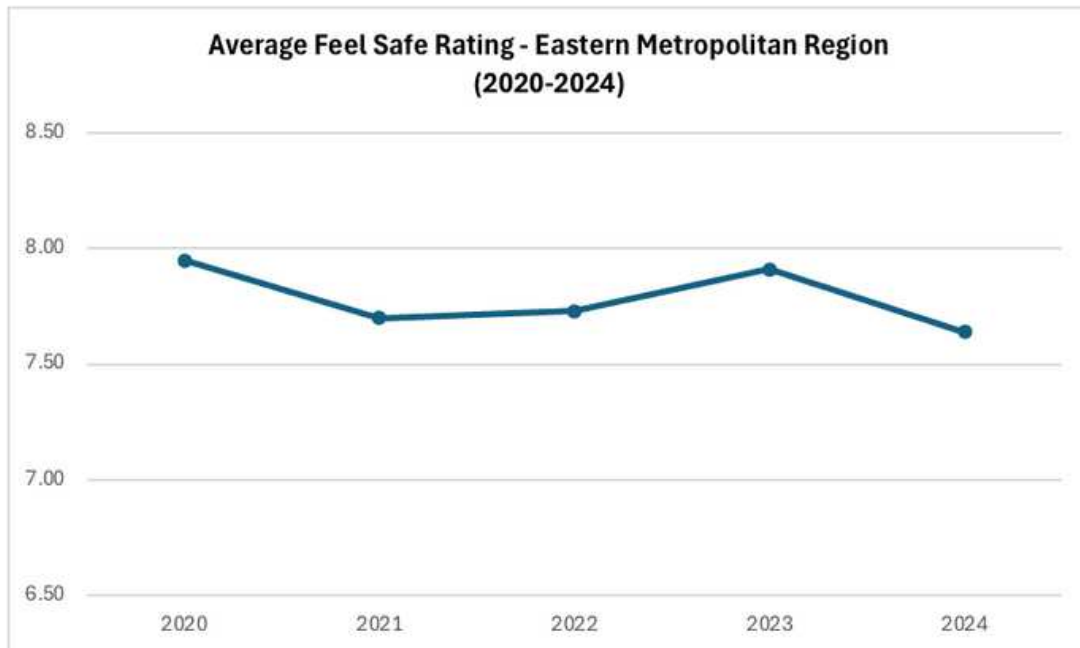
Local Government Areas

Eastern Metropolitan

Eastern Metropolitan



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.78**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

54%

responded with Yes

In 2024,

56%

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

66%

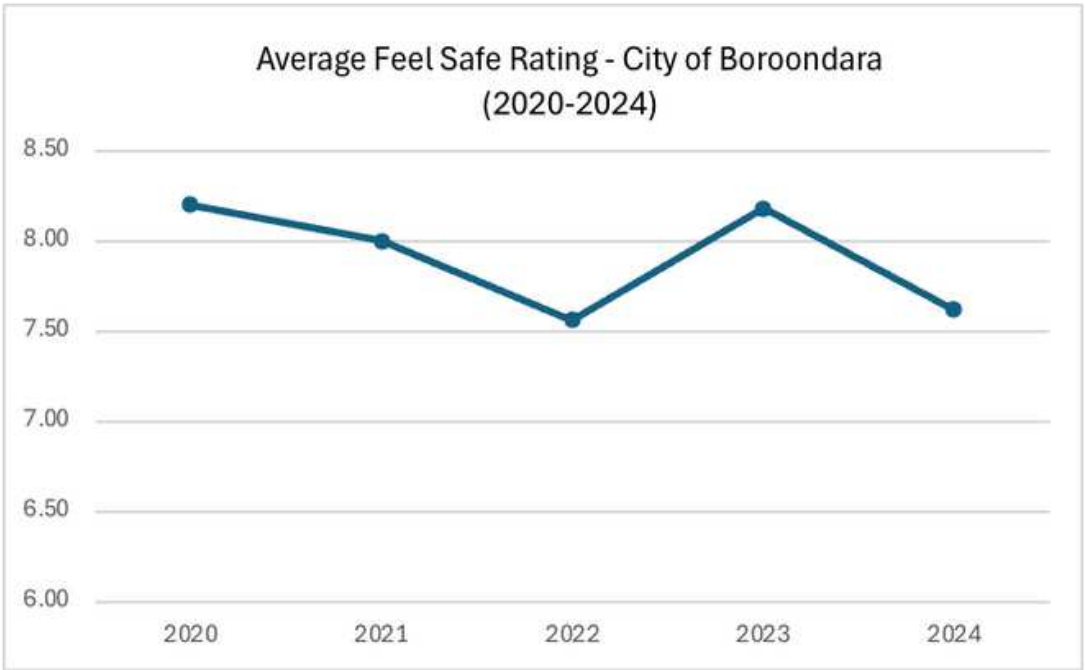
responded with Yes

In 2024,

65%

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: 7.87



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

50% (n = 30)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

57% (n = 136)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

33% (n = 30)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

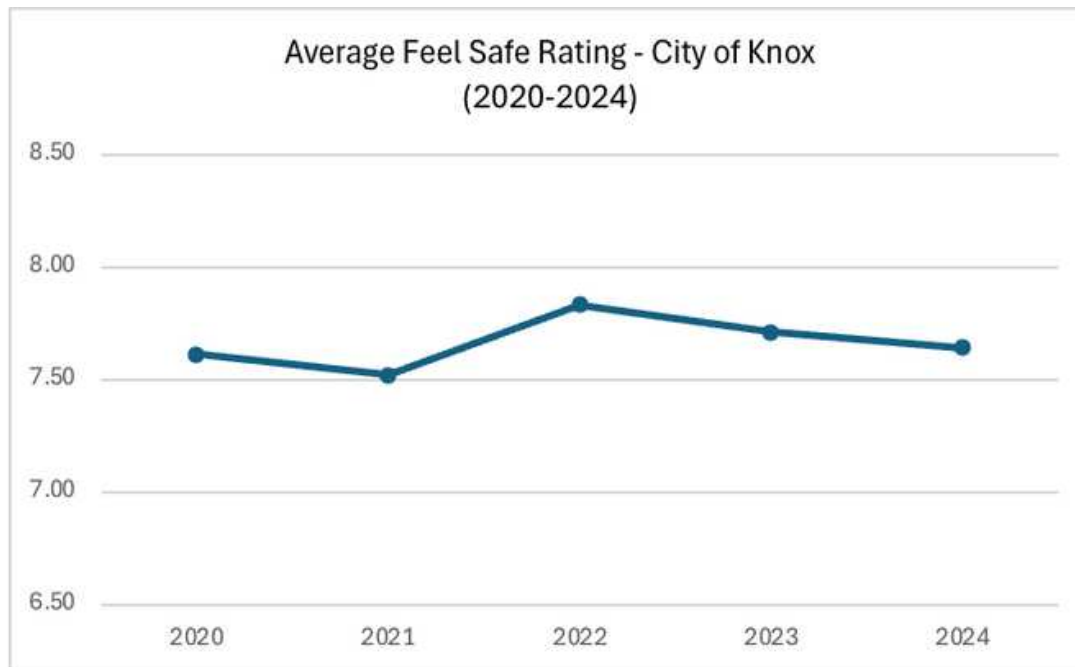
63% (n = 136)

responded with Yes

City of Knox



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.65**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

48% (n = 25)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

67% (n = 42)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

76% (n = 25)

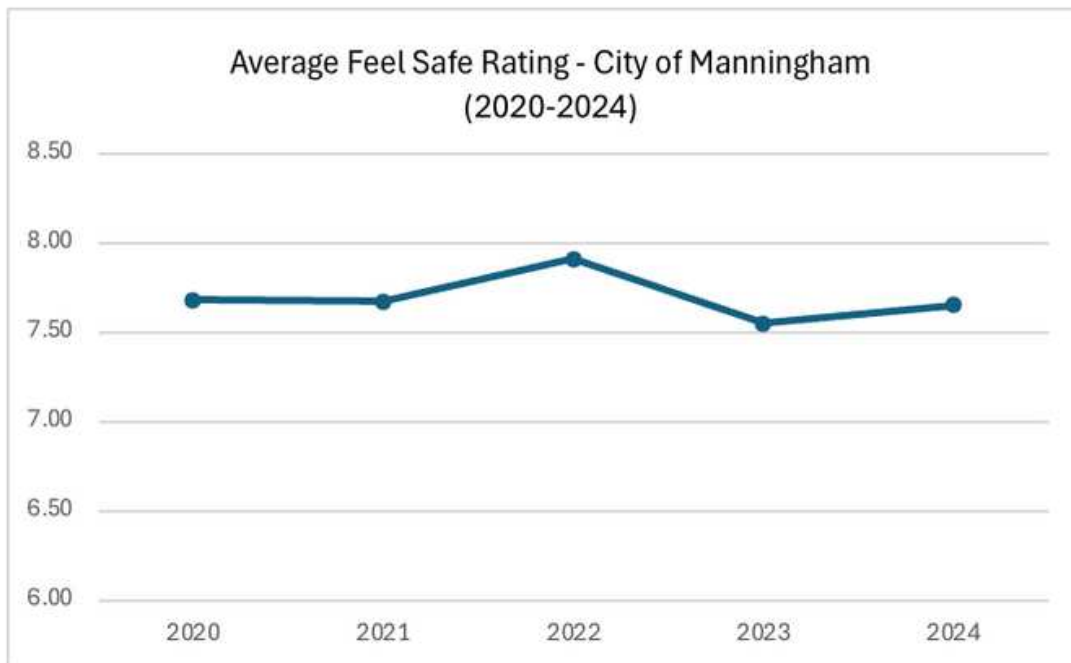
responded with Yes

In 2024,

69% (n = 42)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.68**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

50% (n = 24)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

63% (n = 78)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

79% (n = 24)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

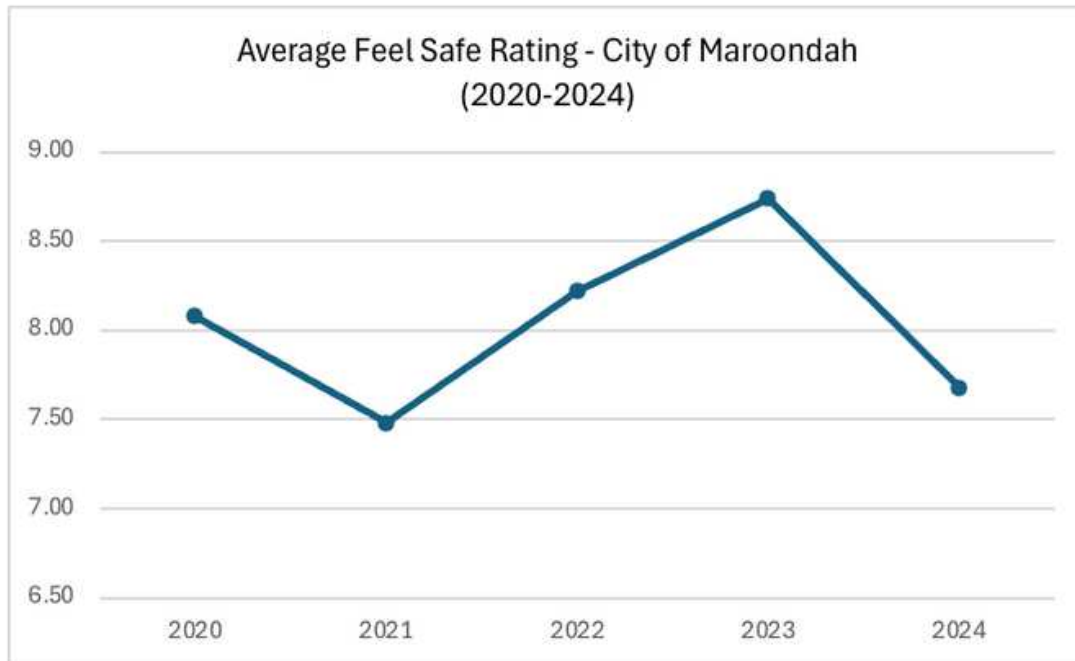
68% (n = 78)

responded with Yes

City of Maroondah



Average Feel Safe Rating: **8.01**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

70% (n = 27)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

51% (n = 65)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

63% (n = 27)

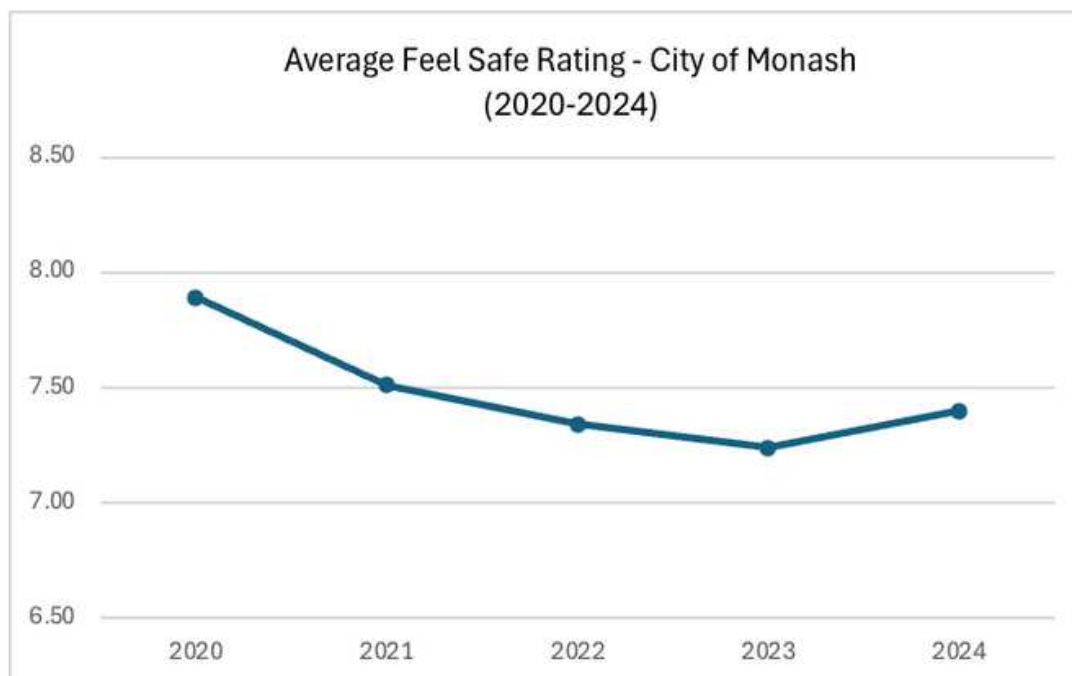
responded with Yes

In 2024,

55% (n = 65)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.47**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

50% (n = 35)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

57% (n = 131)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

33% (n = 35)

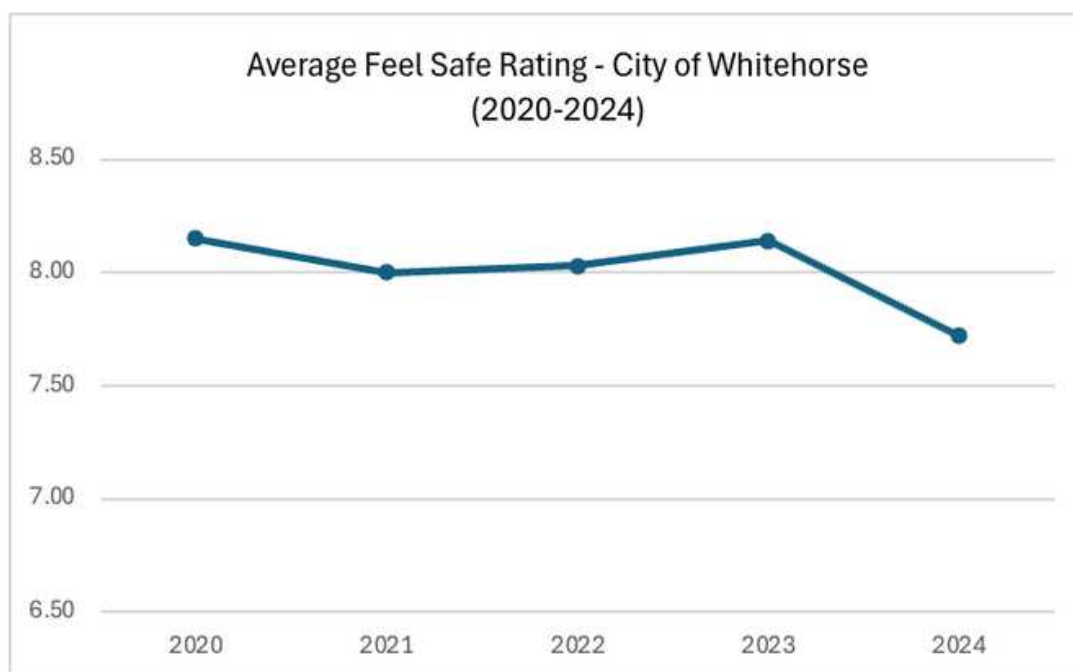
responded with Yes

In 2024,

63% (n = 131)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.97**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

48% (n = 23)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

49% (n = 95)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

65% (n = 23)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

76% (n = 95)

responded with Yes

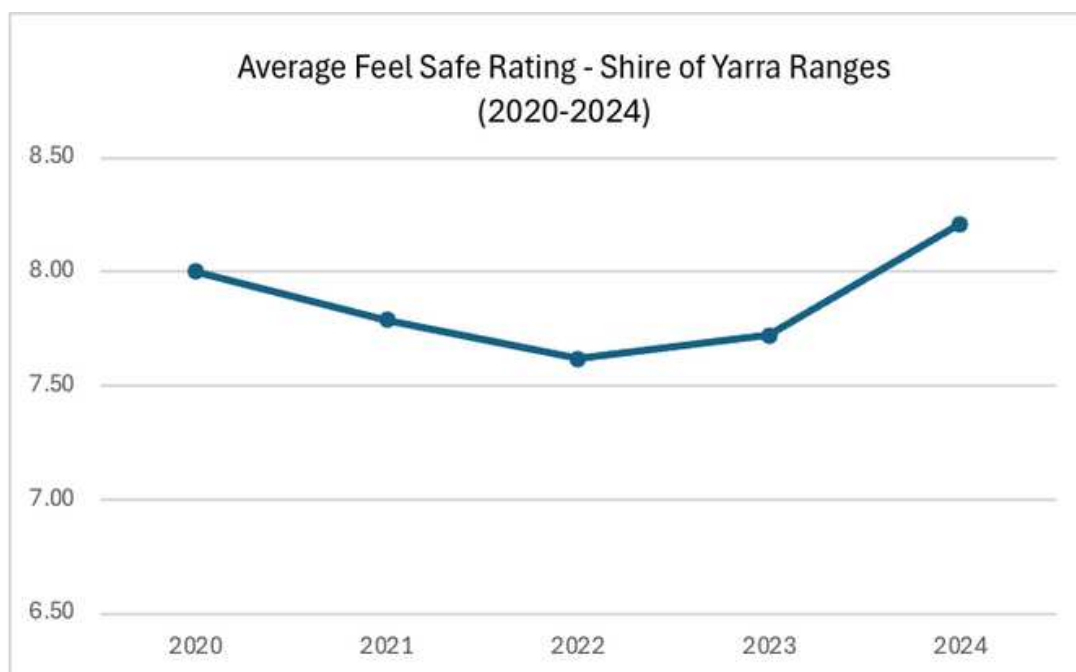
Shire of Yarra Ranges



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Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.91**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

50% (n = 28)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

47% (n = 43)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

68% (n = 28)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

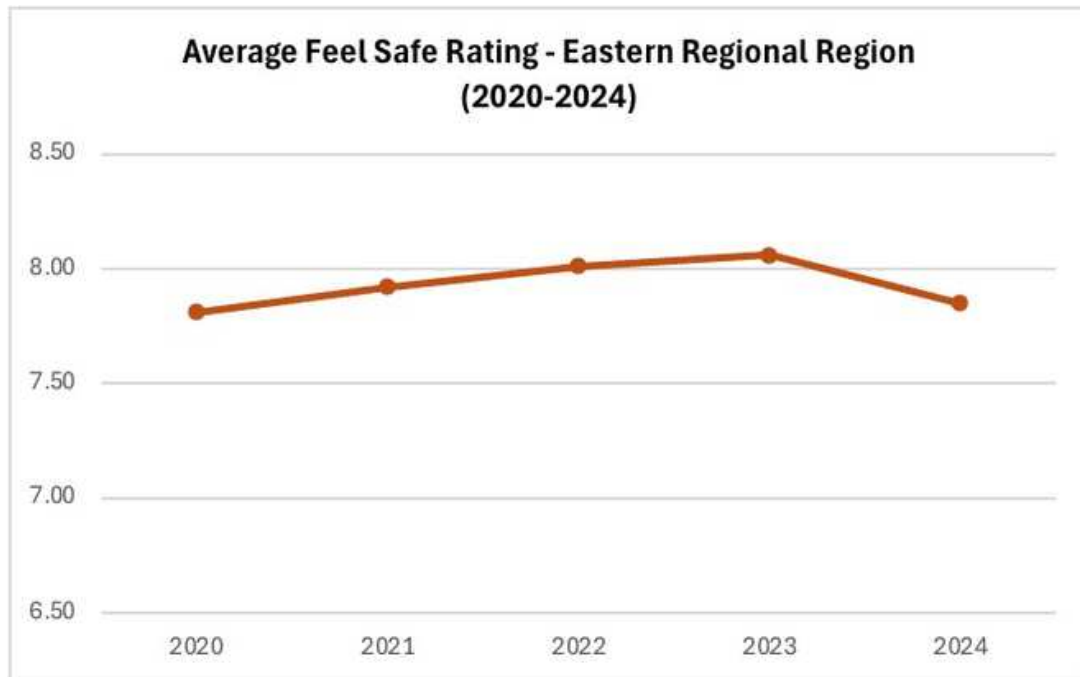
47% (n = 43)

responded with Yes

Eastern Regional

Eastern Regional

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.91**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

38%

responded with Yes

In 2024,

46%

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

59%

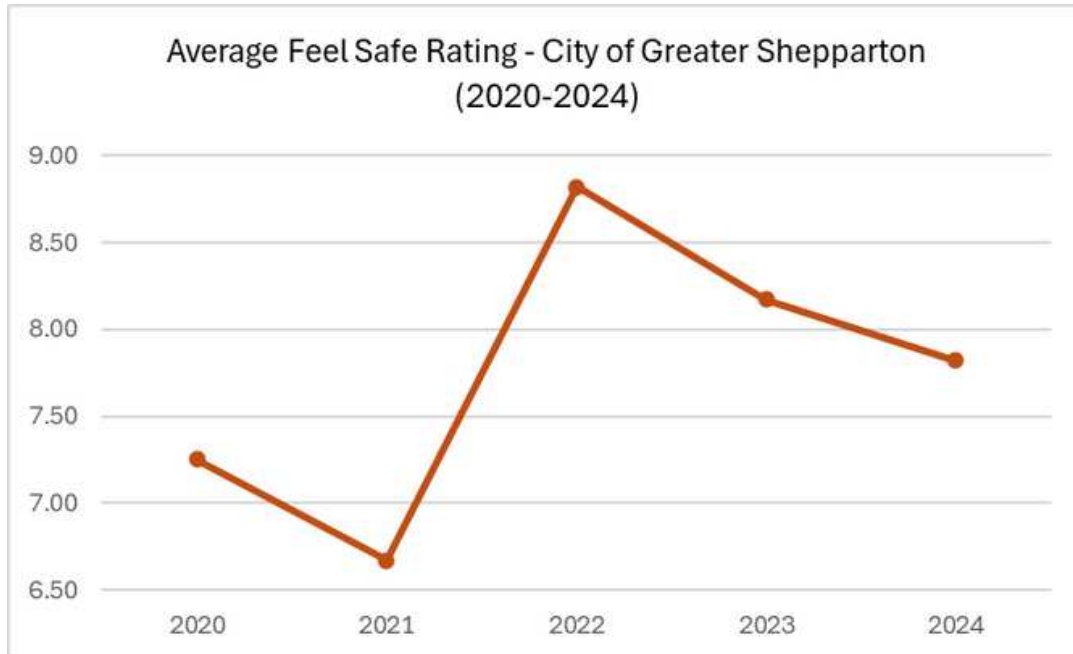
responded with Yes

In 2024,

60%

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.70**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

56% (n = 9)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

64% (n = 11)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

67% (n = 9)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

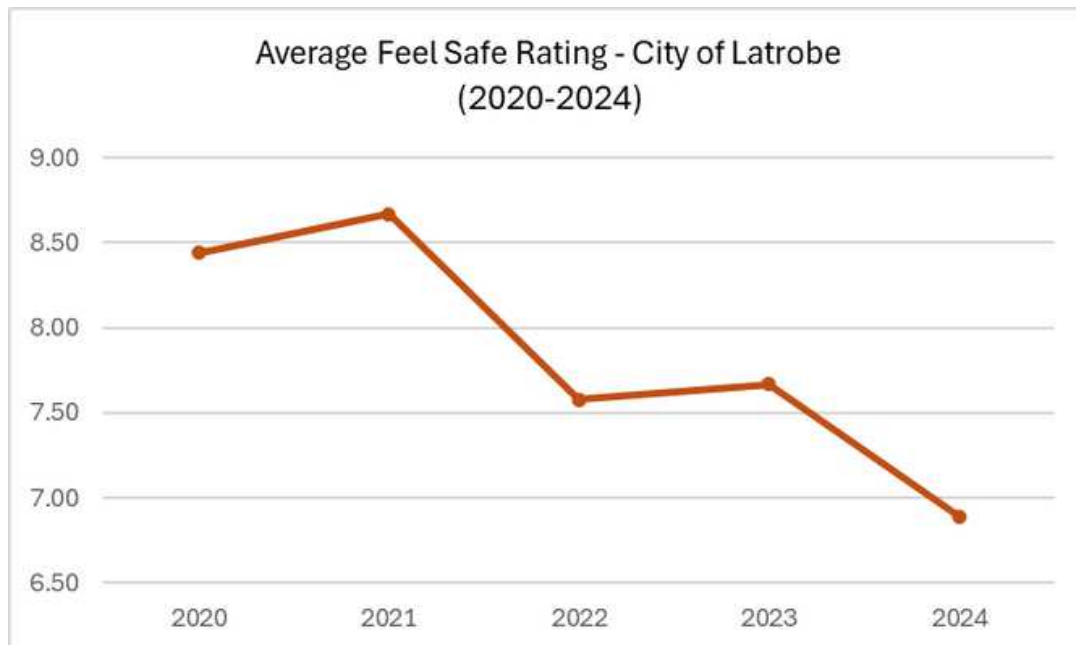
64% (n = 11)

responded with Yes

City of Latrobe



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.72**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

33% (n = 3)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

56% (n = 9)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

67% (n = 3)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

89% (n = 9)

responded with Yes

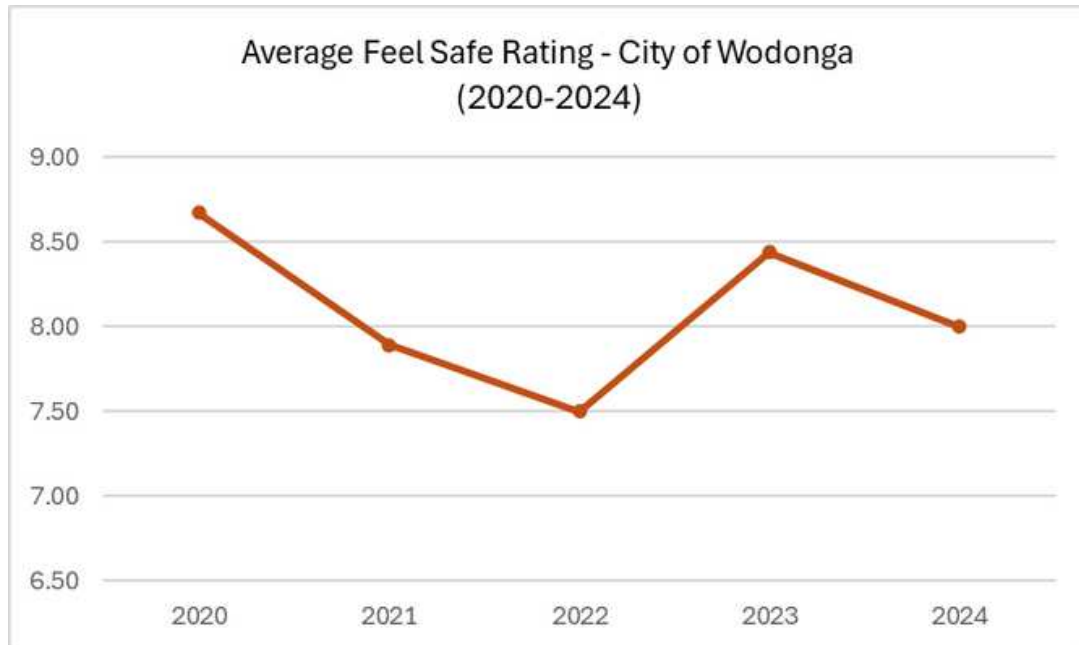
City of Wodonga



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **8.08**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

33% (n = 9)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

56% (n = 17)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

78% (n = 9)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

76% (n = 17)

responded with Yes

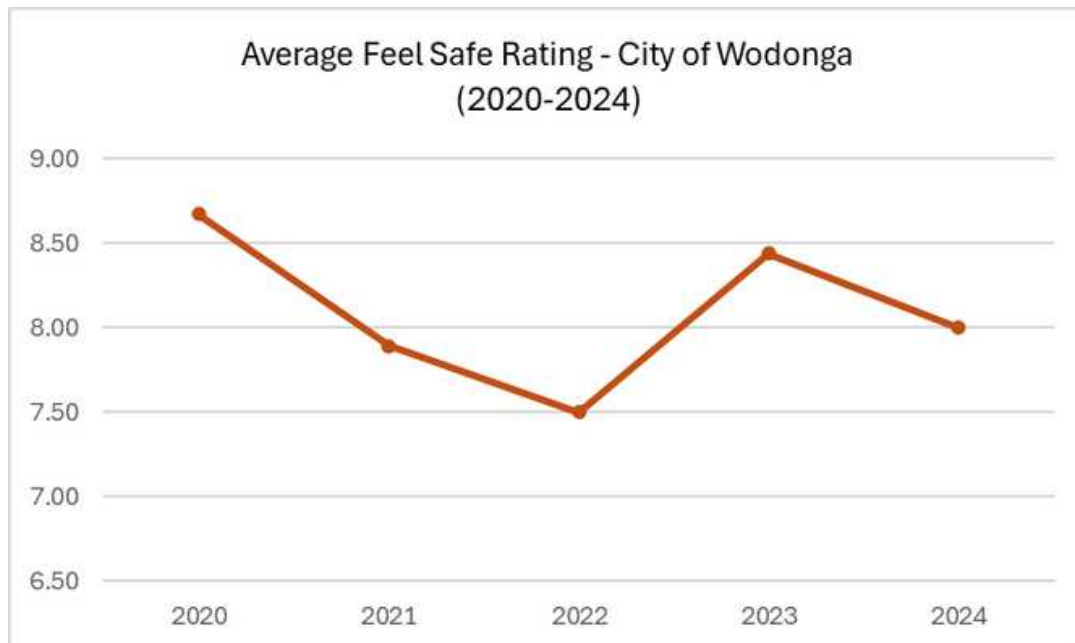
Rural City of Benalla



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Average Feel Safe Rating: **8.67**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

60% (n = 5)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

40% (n = 5)

responded with Yes

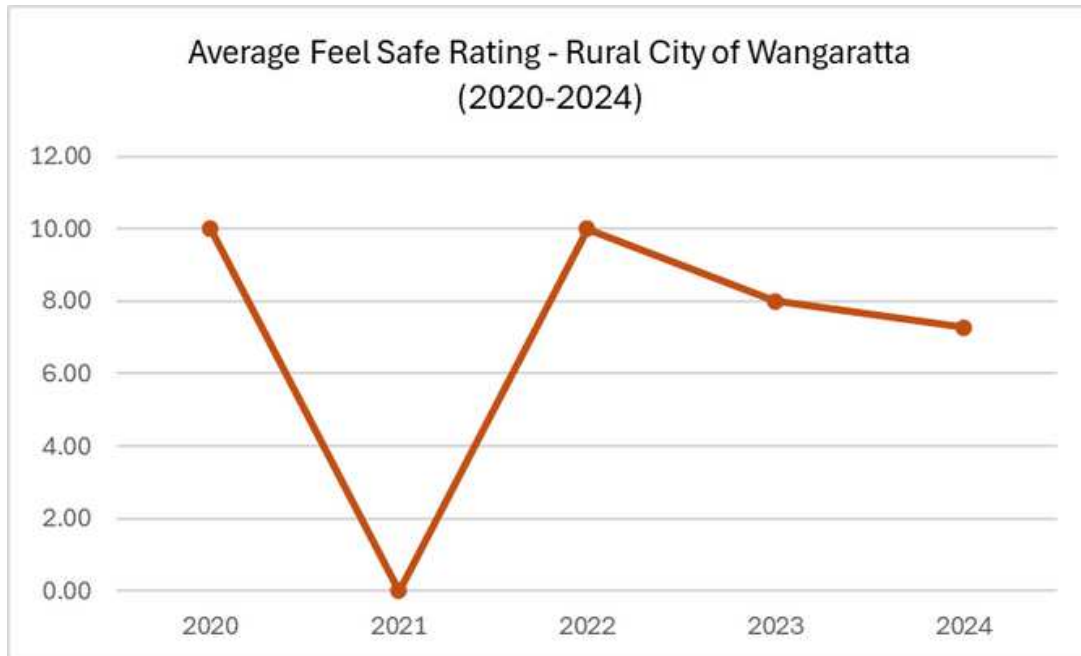
Rural City of Wangaratta



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.75**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

14% (n = 7)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

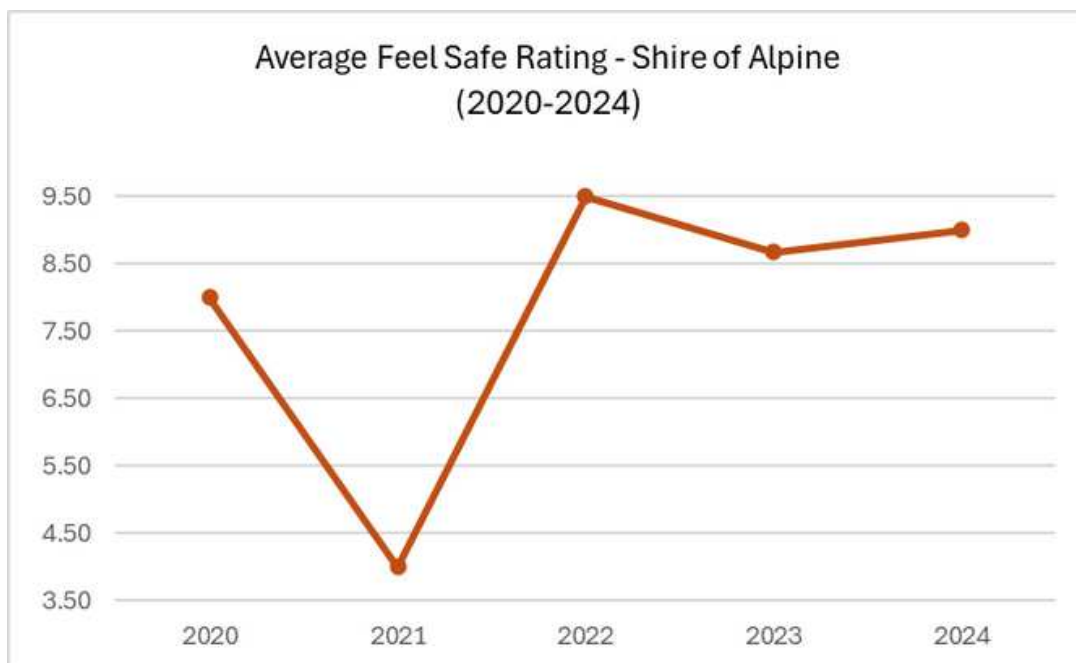
43% (n = 7)

responded with Yes

Shire of Alpine



Average Feel Safe Rating: **8.83**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

0% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

67% (n = 3)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

0% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

67% (n = 3)

responded with Yes

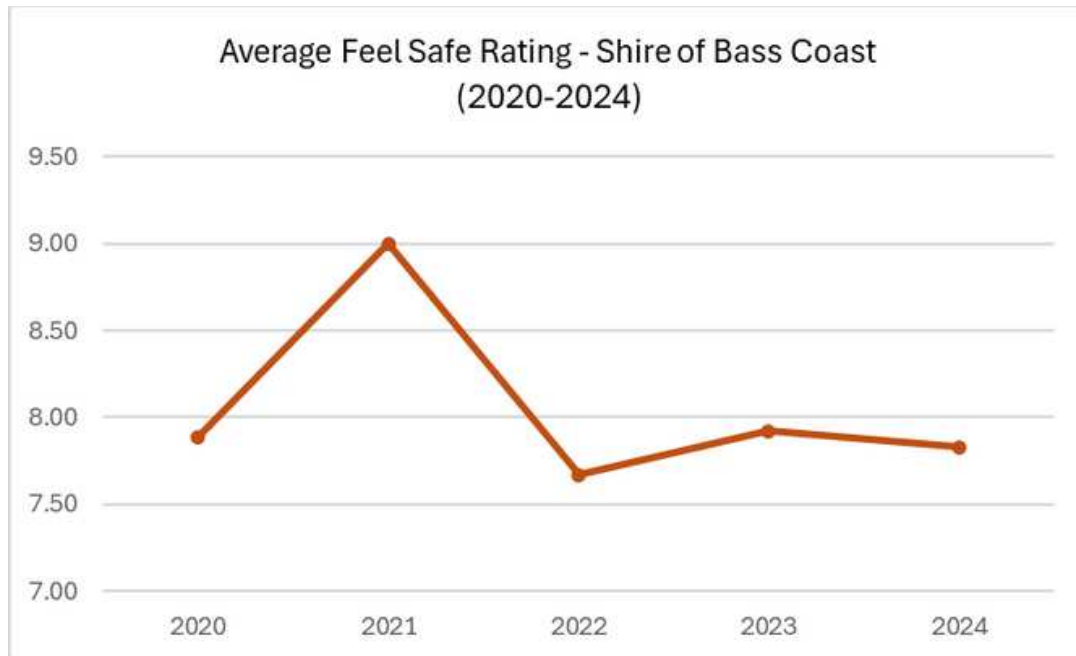
Shire of Bass Coast



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.88**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

0% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

39% (n = 18)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

0% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

56% (n = 18)

responded with Yes

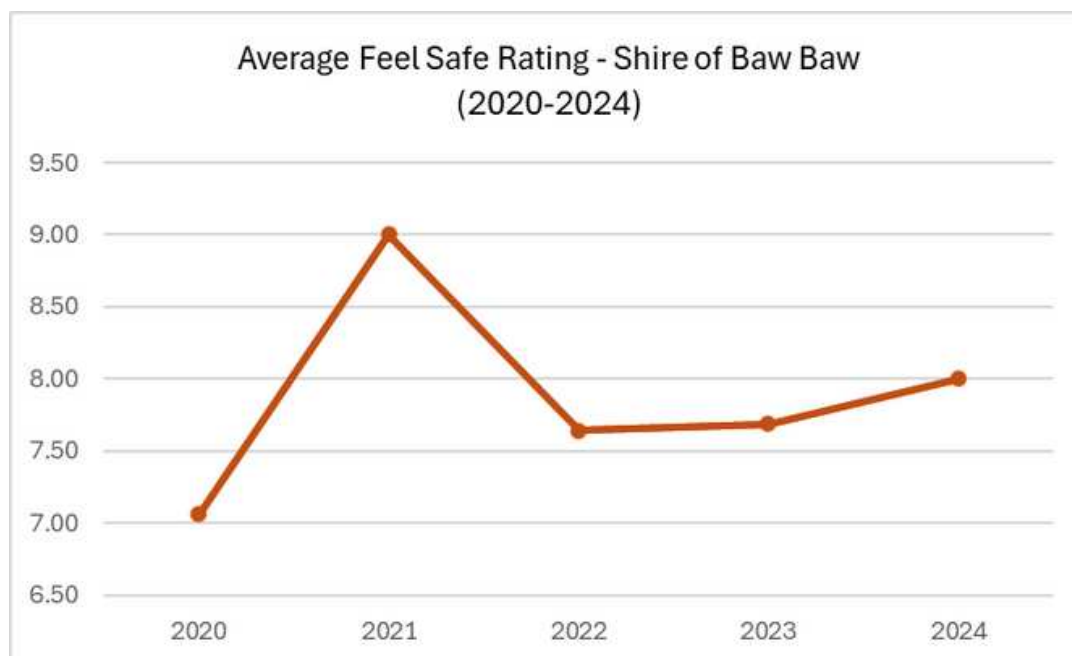
Shire of Baw Baw



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.59**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

20% (n = 5)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

36% (n = 25)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

60% (n = 5)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

52% (n = 25)

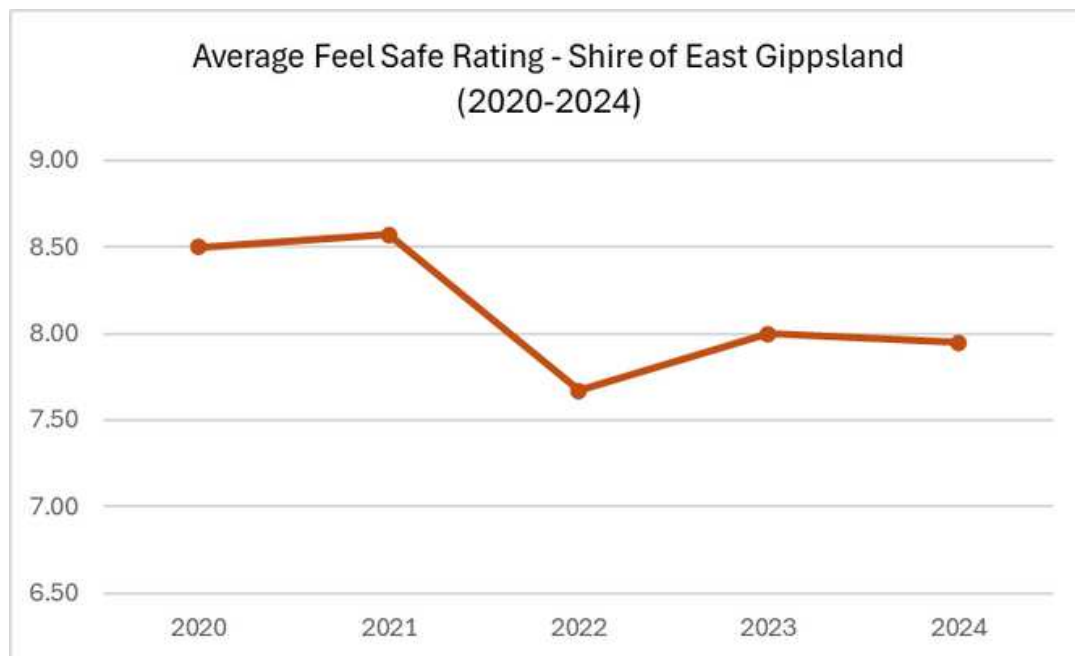
responded with Yes



Shire of East Gippsland



Average Feel Safe Rating: **8.07**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

29% (n = 7)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

58% (n = 19)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

57% (n = 7)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

58% (n = 19)

responded with Yes



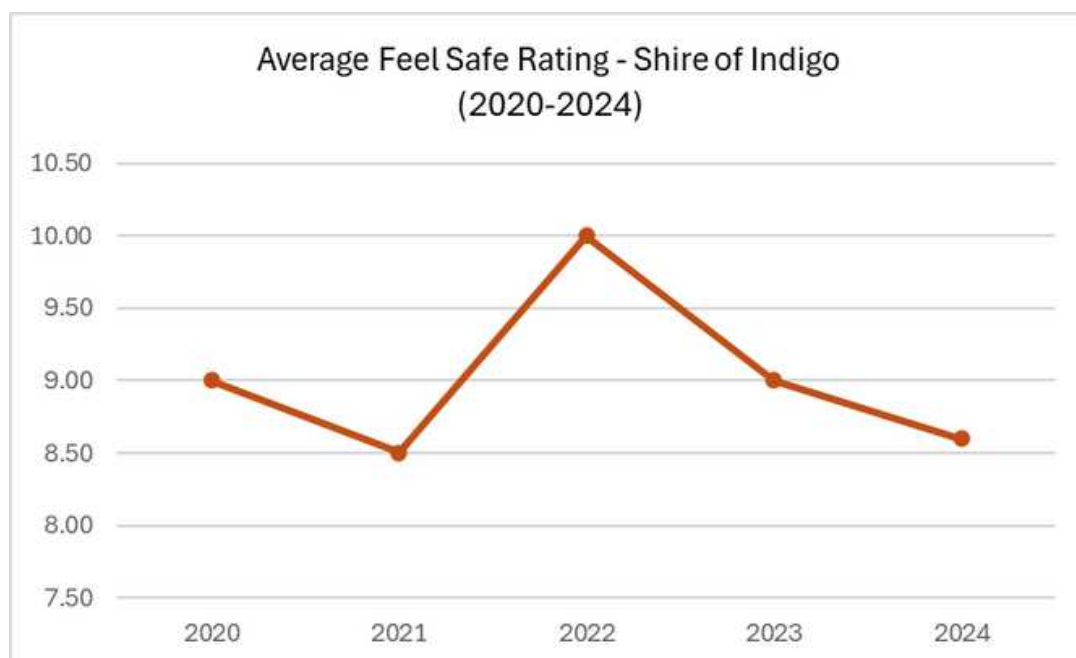
Shire of Indigo



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **8.80**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

0% (n = 2)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

60% (n = 5)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

50% (n = 2)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

40% (n = 5)

responded with Yes



= signifies that there is an active Neighbourhood Watch group in this area

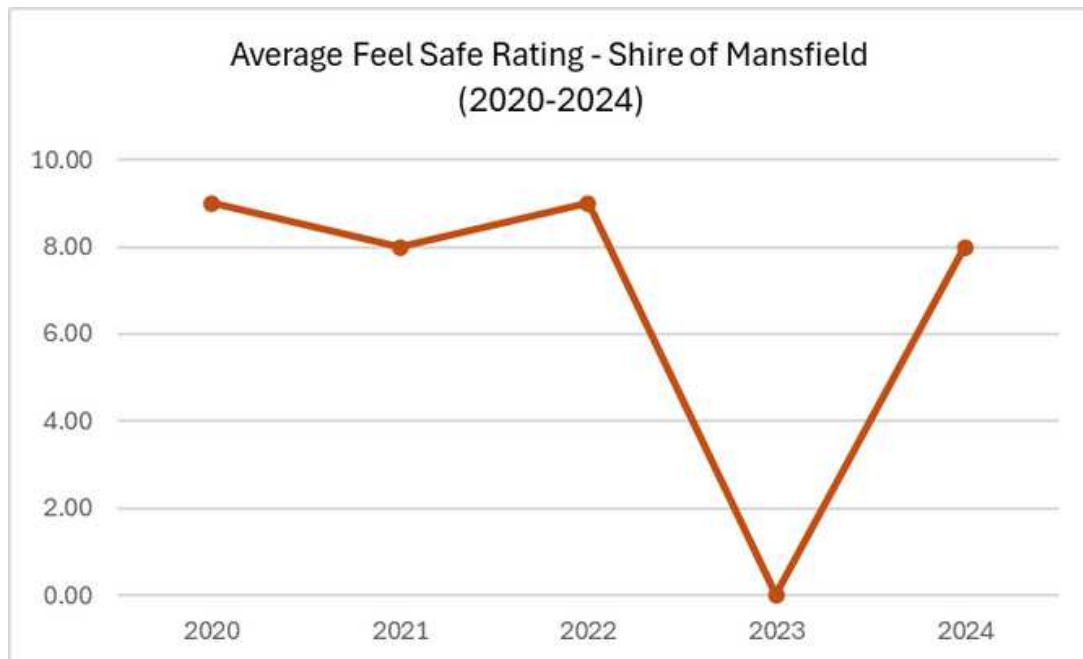
Shire of Mansfield



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Average Feel Safe Rating: **8.50**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

100% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

0% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

0% (n = 1)

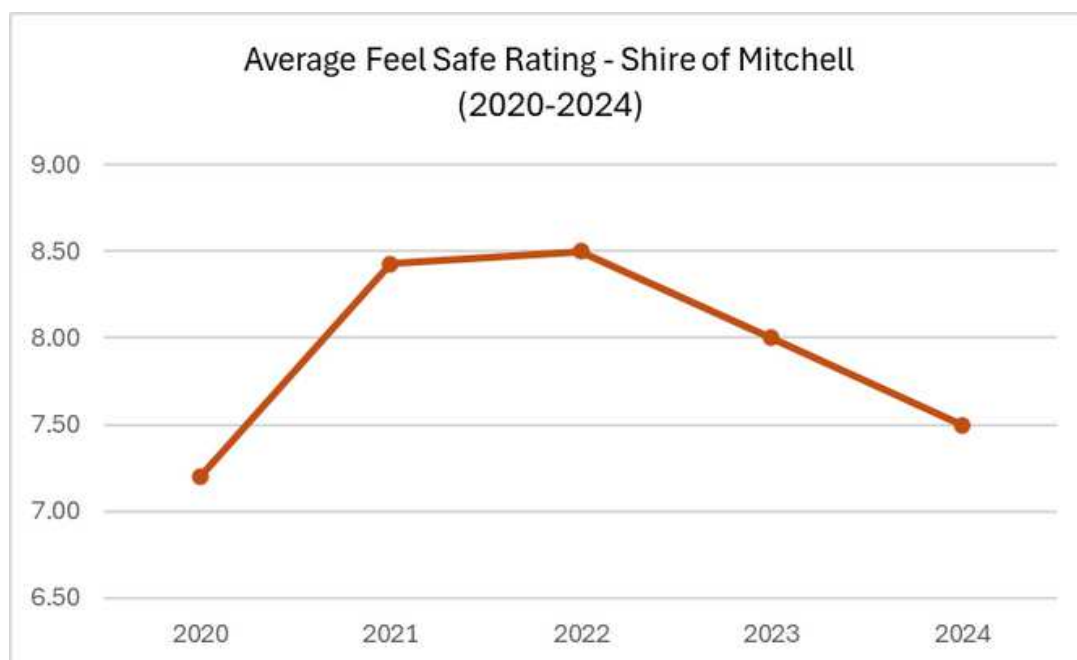
responded with Yes

In 2024,

40% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.83**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

71% (n = 7)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

71% (n = 10)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

50% (n = 7)

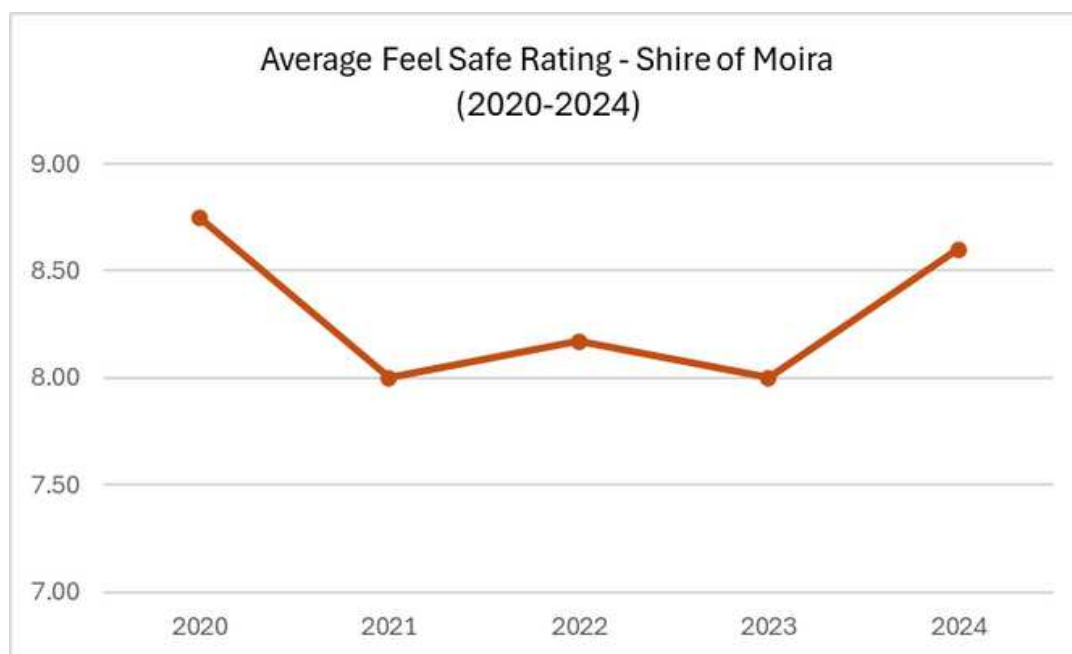
responded with Yes

In 2024,

50% (n = 10)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **8.40**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

50% (n = 2)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

20% (n = 10)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

50% (n = 2)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

50% (n = 10)

responded with Yes

Shire of Murrindindi



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.36**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

0% (n = 2)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

20% (n = 5)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

50% (n = 2)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

50% (n = 5)

responded with Yes

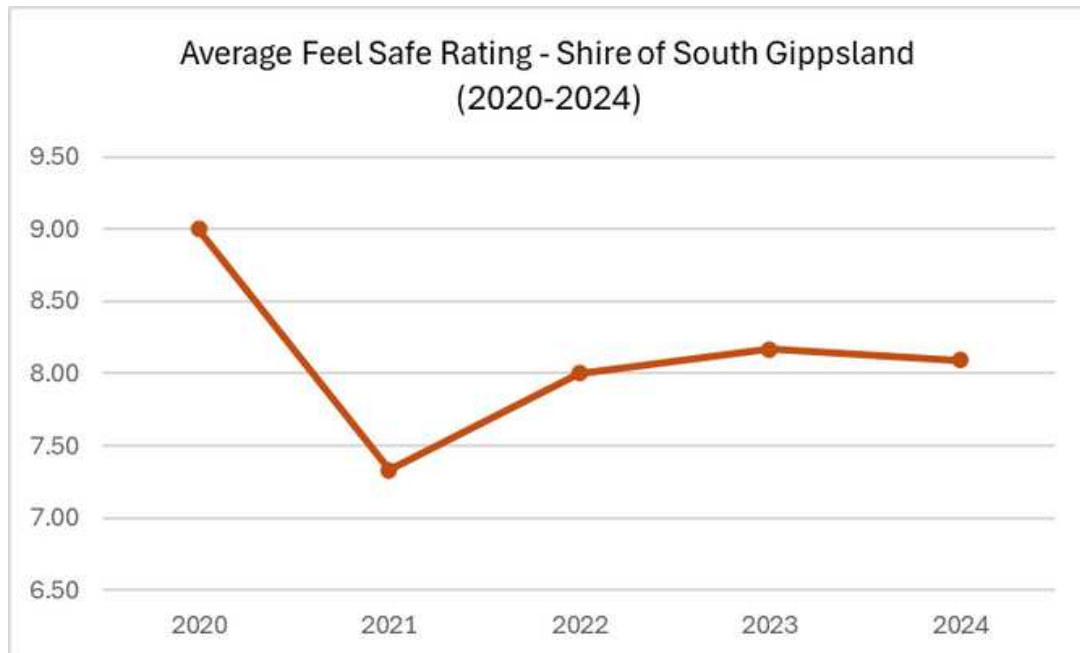
Shire of South Gippsland



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **8.13**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

67% (n = 3)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

57% (n = 11)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

33% (n = 3)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

63% (n = 11)

responded with Yes

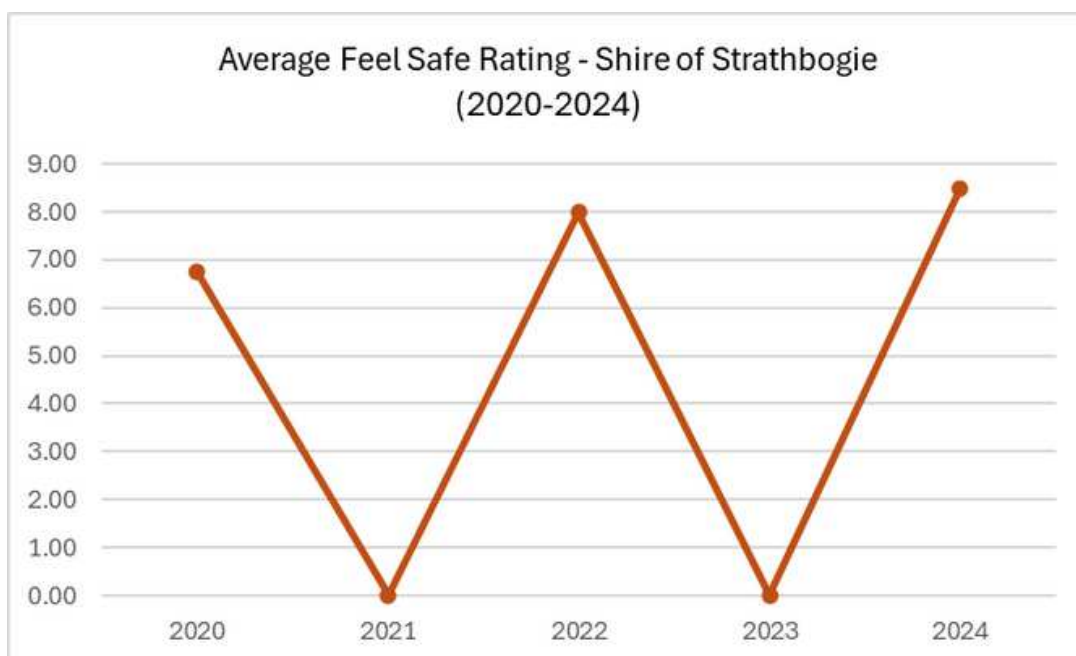
Shire of Strathbogie



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.43**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

50% (n = 2)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

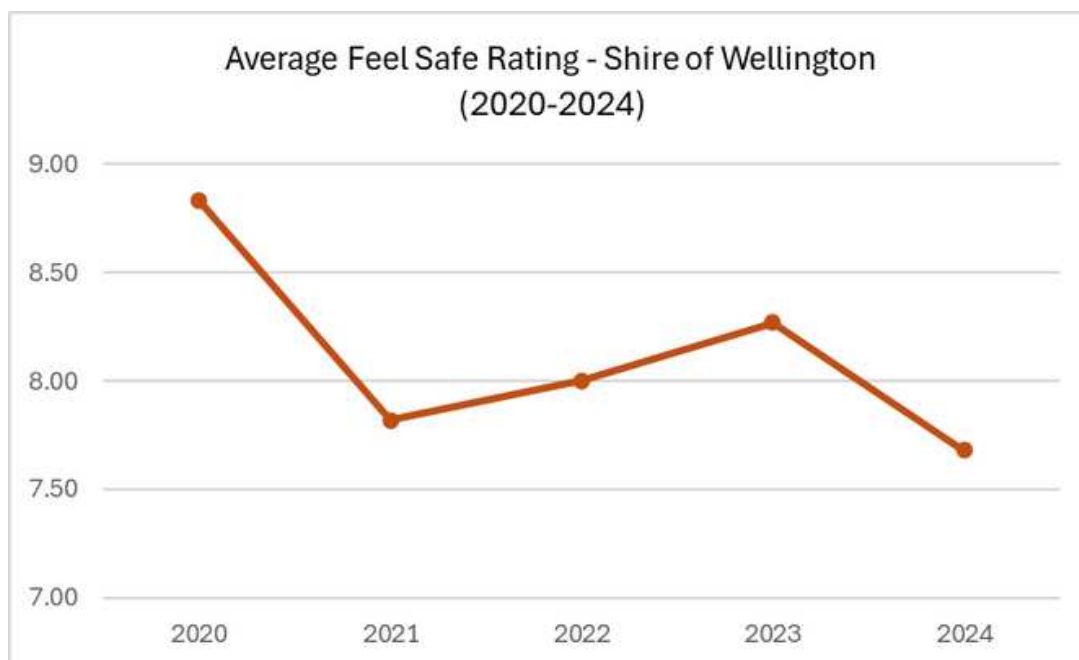
In 2024,

100% (n = 2)

responded with Yes



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.92**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

27% (n = 11)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

60% (n = 40)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

55% (n = 11)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

68% (n = 40)

responded with Yes

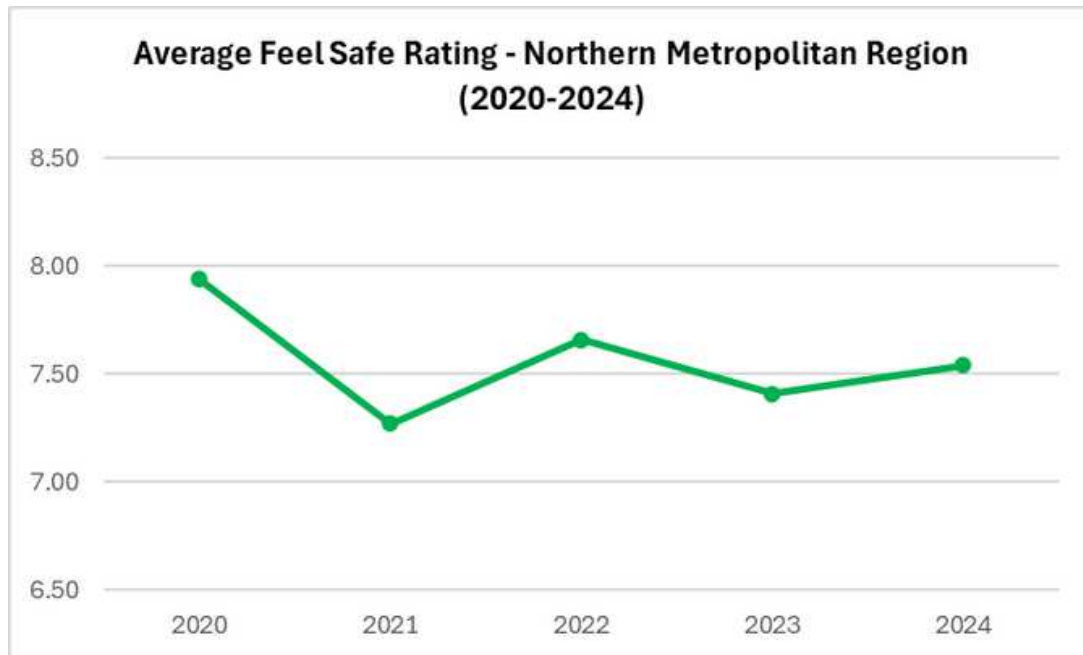
Northern Metropolitan

Northern Metropolitan

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.56**



Supported by



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

53%

responded with Yes

In 2024,

59%

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

76%

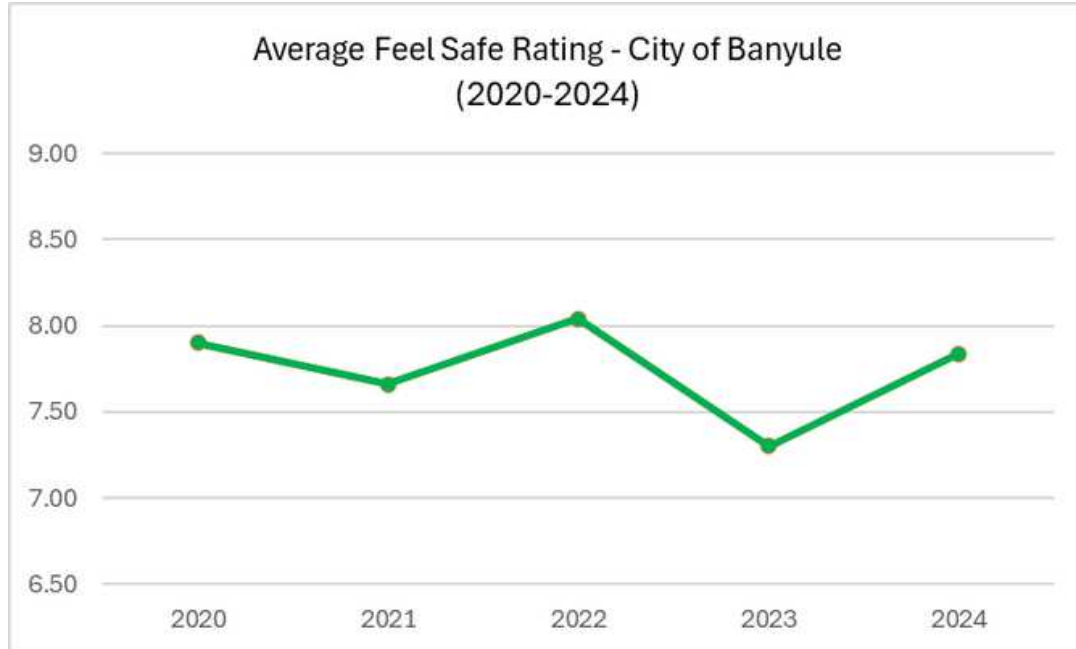
responded with Yes

In 2024,

75%

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.76**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

47% (n = 38)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

56% (n = 82)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

63% (n = 38)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

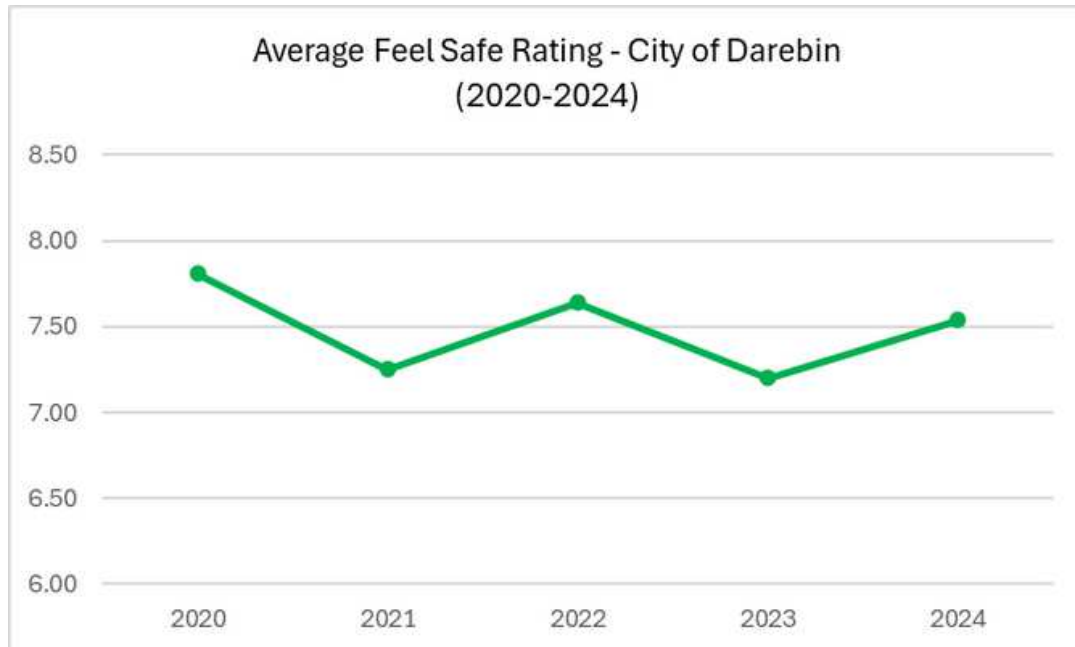
76% (n = 82)

responded with Yes

City of Darebin



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.49**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

57% (n = 28)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

63% (n = 52)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

79% (n = 28)

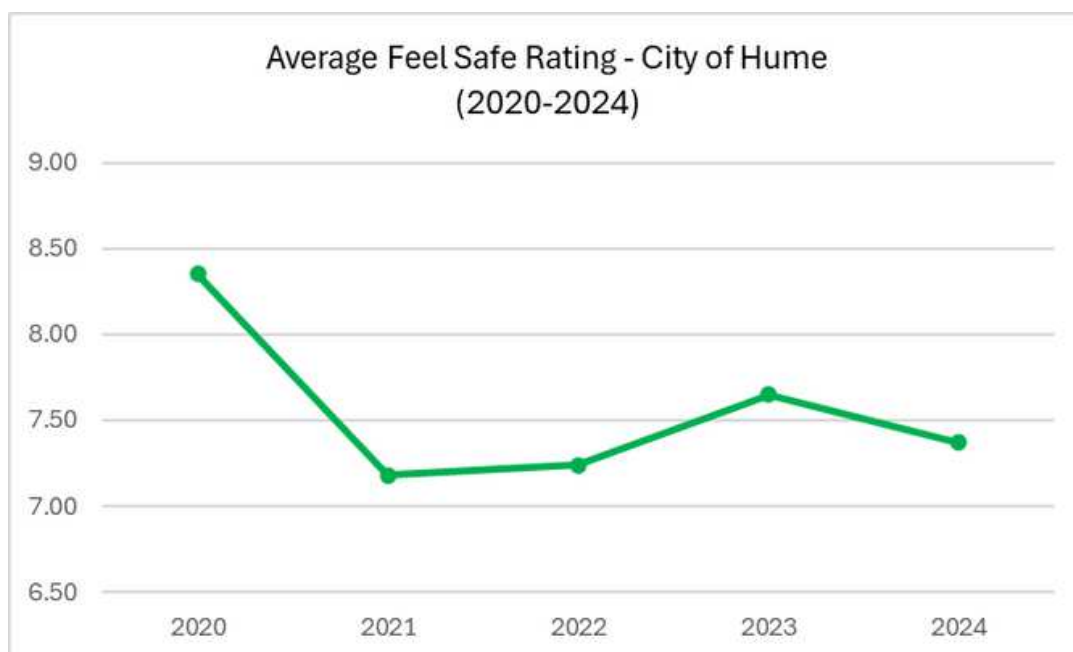
responded with Yes

In 2024,

63% (n = 52)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.31**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

57% (n = 111)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

65% (n = 103)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

81% (n = 111)

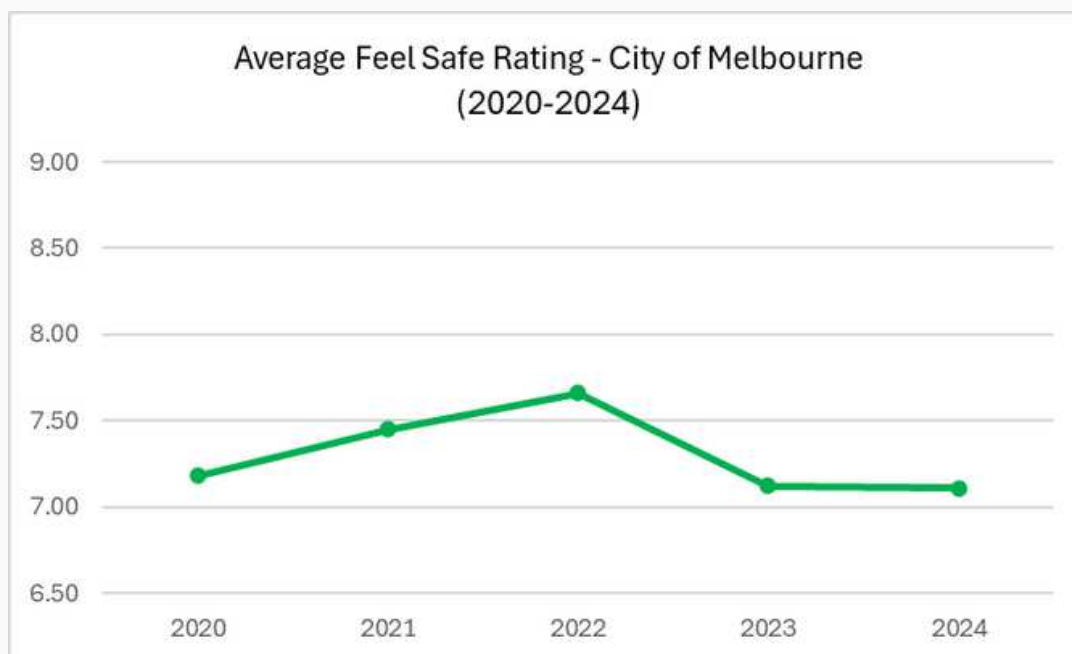
responded with Yes

In 2024,

84% (n = 103)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.28**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

50% (n = 22)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

59% (n = 46)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

77% (n = 22)

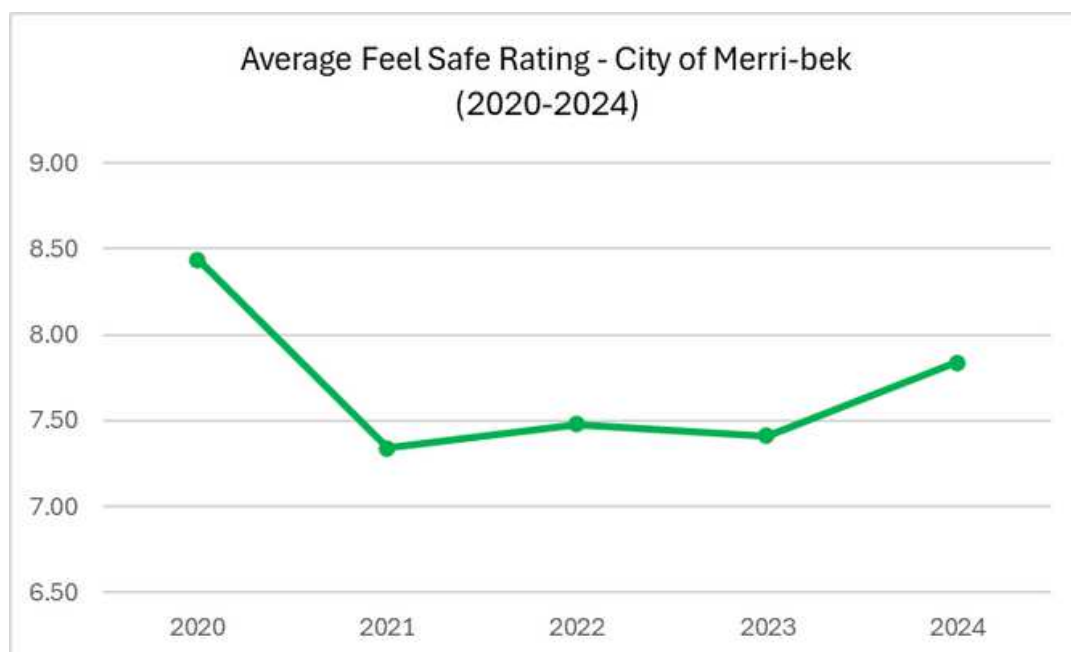
responded with Yes

In 2024,

74% (n = 46)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.67**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

43% (n = 44)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

26% (n = 19)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

80% (n = 44)

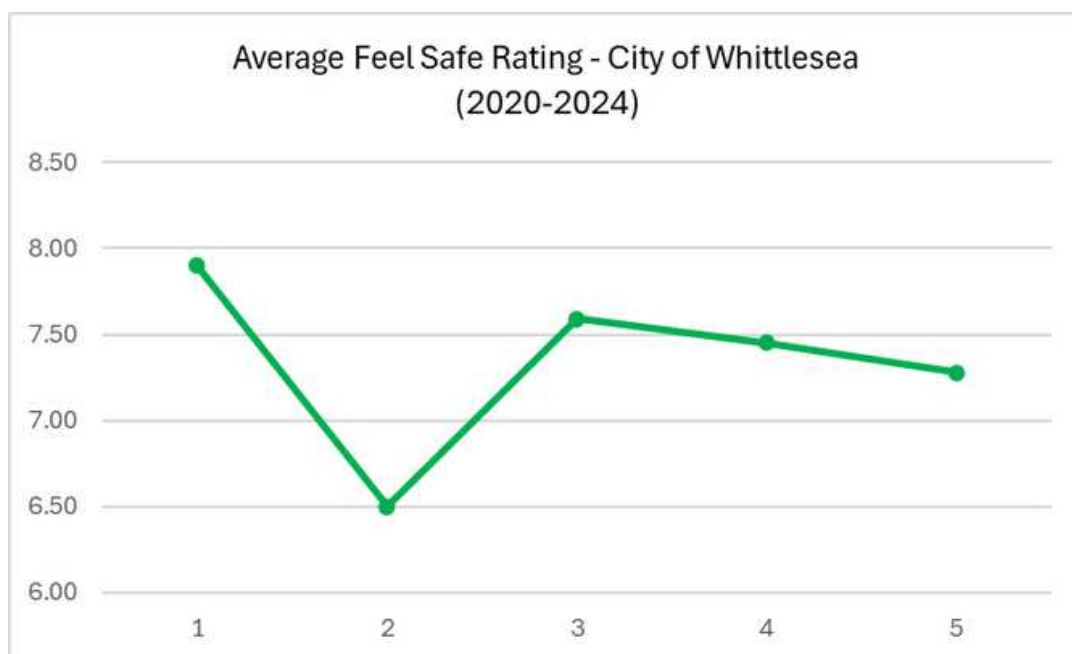
responded with Yes

In 2024,

63% (n = 19)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.33**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

64% (n = 22)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

59% (n = 29)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

77% (n = 22)

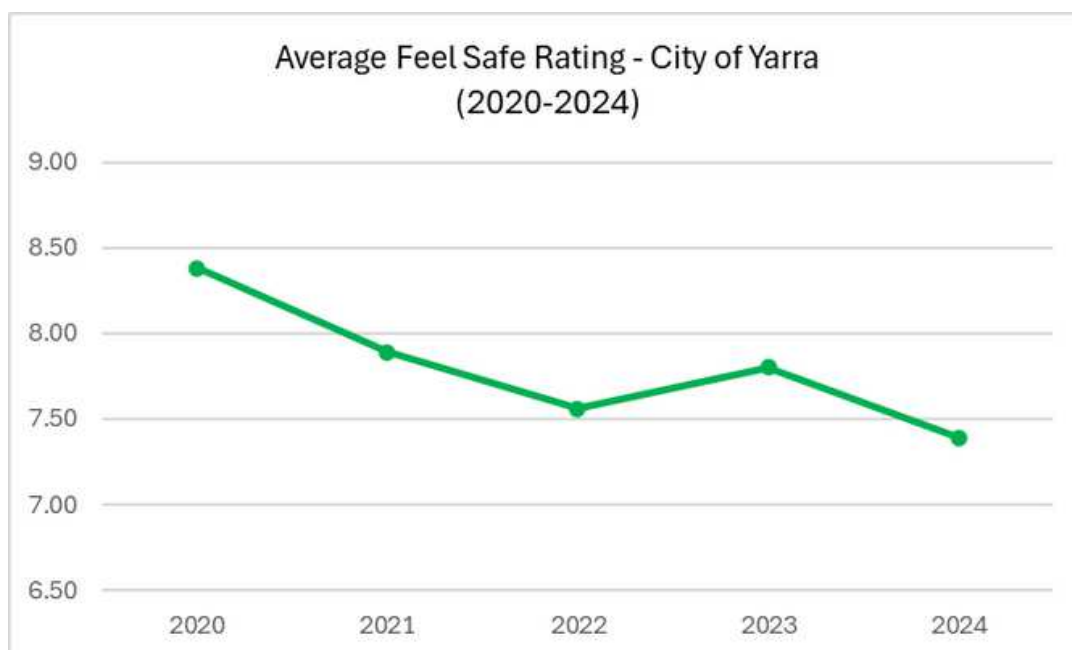
responded with Yes

In 2024,

83% (n = 29)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.81**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

56% (n = 9)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

38% (n = 18)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

56% (n = 9)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

78% (n = 18)

responded with Yes

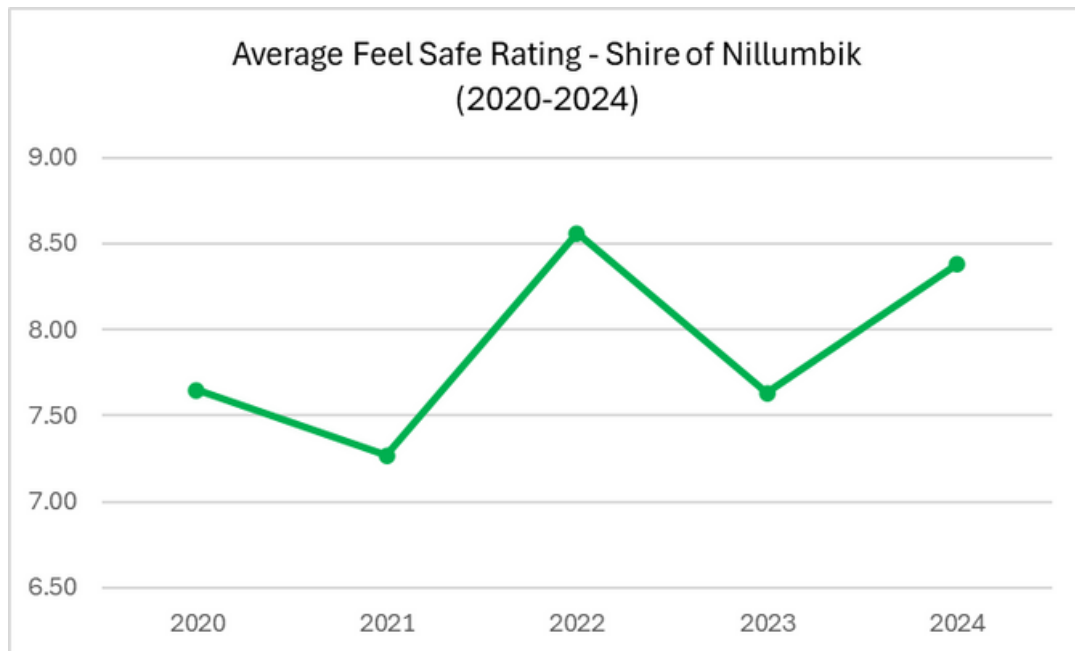
Shire of Nillumbik



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.81**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

50% (n = 22)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

67% (n = 21)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

68% (n = 22)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

52% (n = 21)

responded with Yes

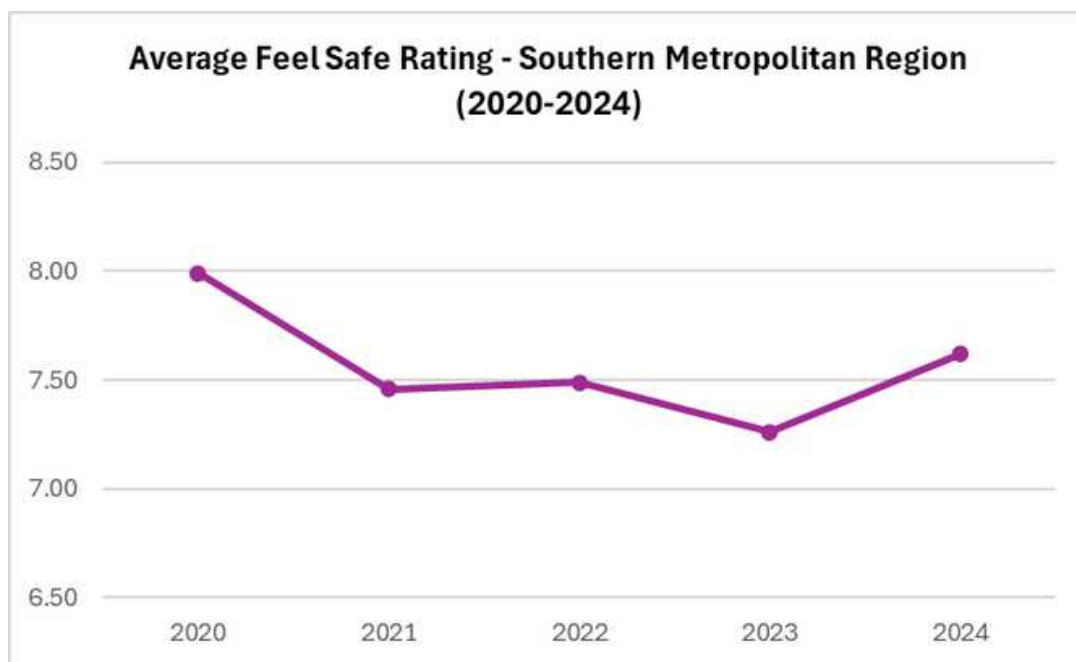
Southern Metropolitan

Southern Metropolitan

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.59**



Supported by



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

53%

responded with Yes

In 2024,

56%

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

73%

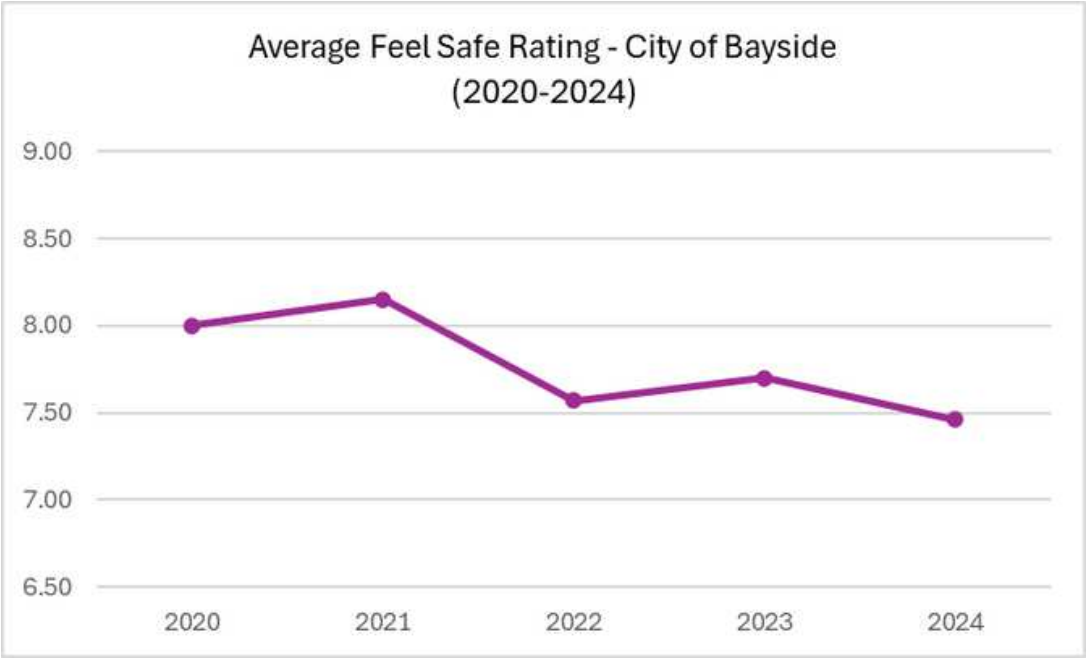
responded with Yes

In 2024,

72%

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: 7.71



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

55% (n = 20)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

66% (n = 56)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

50% (n = 20)

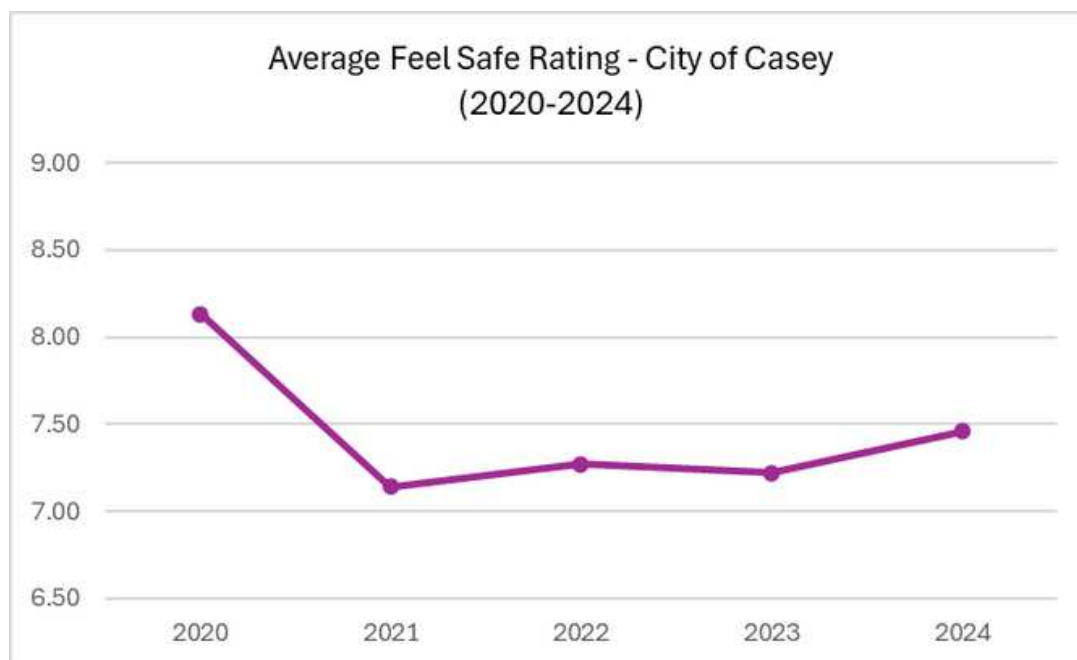
responded with Yes

In 2024,

63% (n = 56)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.46**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

60% (n = 96)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

57% (n = 107)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

85% (n = 96)

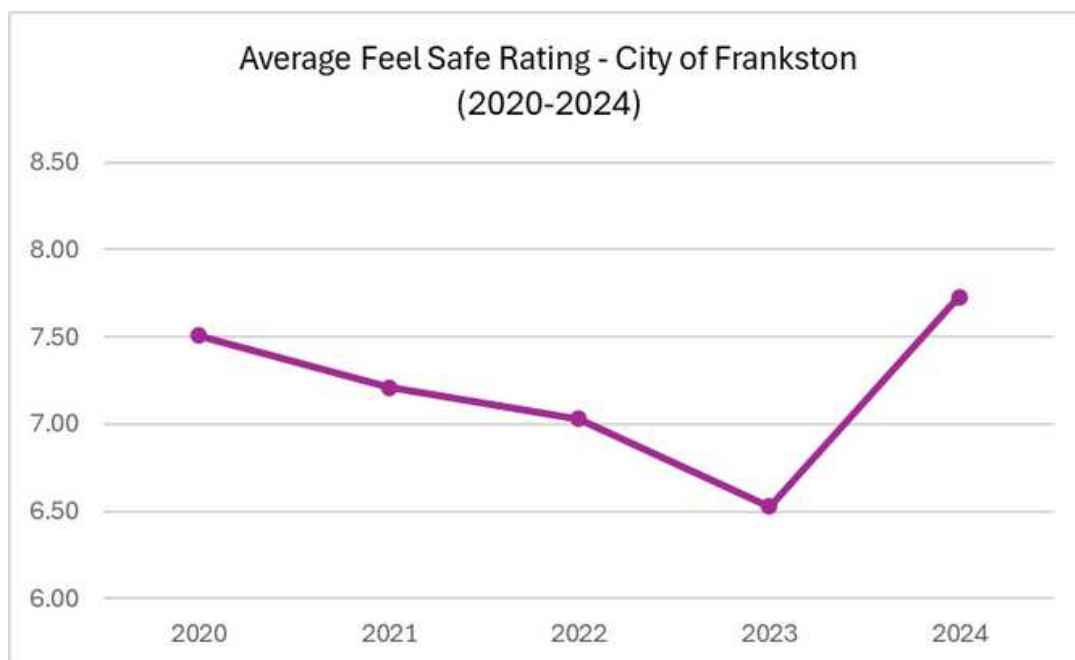
responded with Yes

In 2024,

82% (n = 107)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.26**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

50% (n = 33)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

57% (n = 51)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

33% (n = 33)

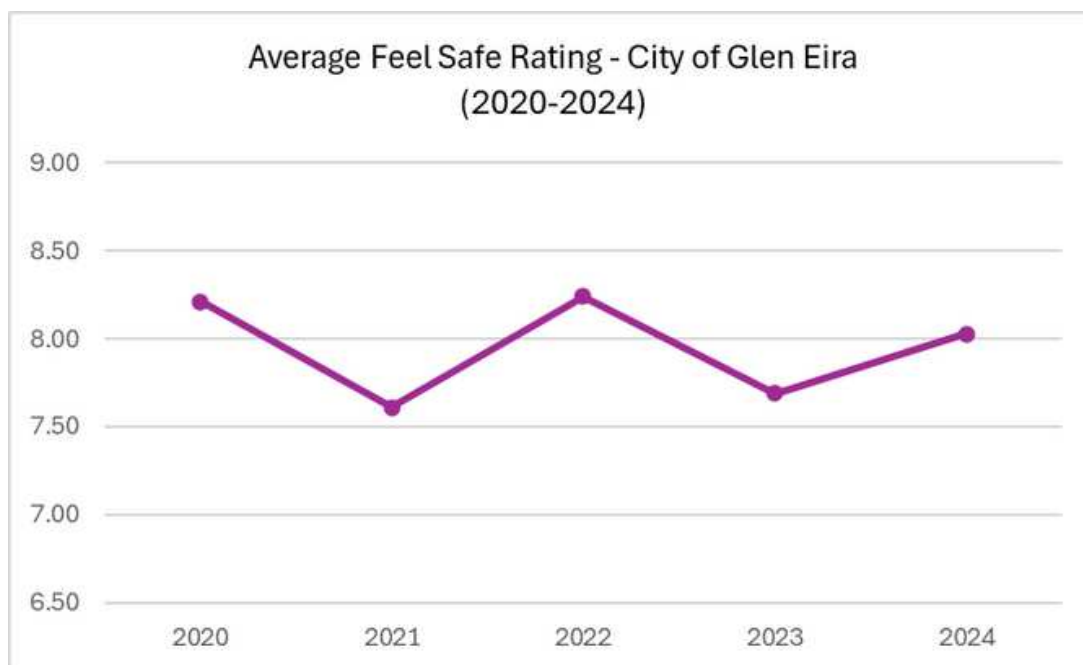
responded with Yes

In 2024,

63% (n = 51)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.99**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

43% (n = 28)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

54% (n = 74)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

64% (n = 28)

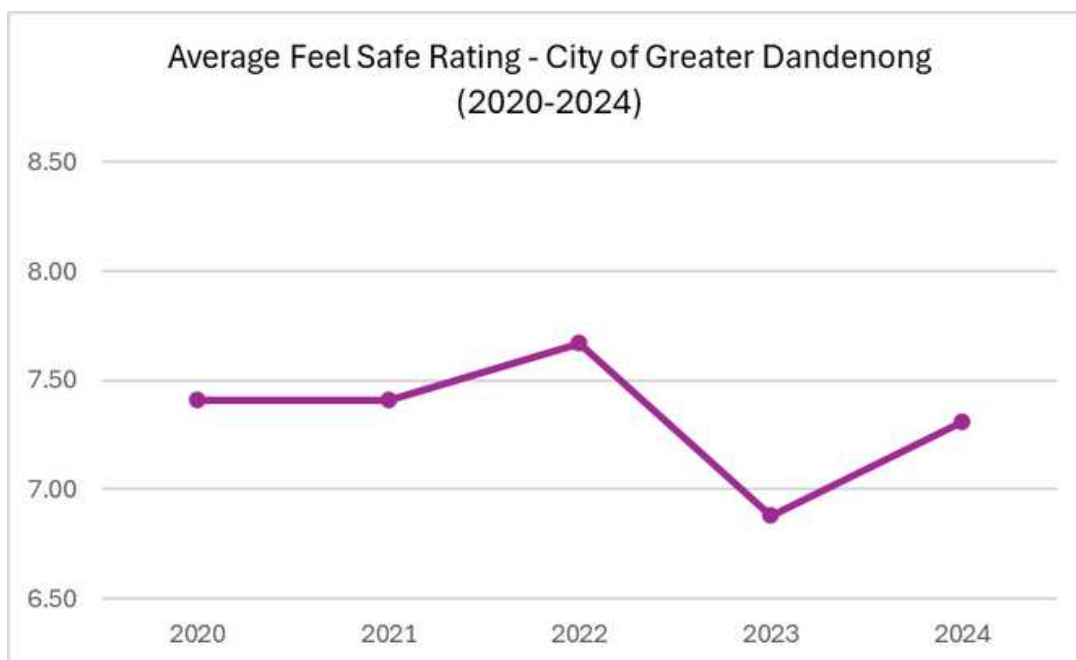
responded with Yes

In 2024,

69% (n = 74)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.32**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

55% (n = 22)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

54% (n = 35)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

68% (n = 22)

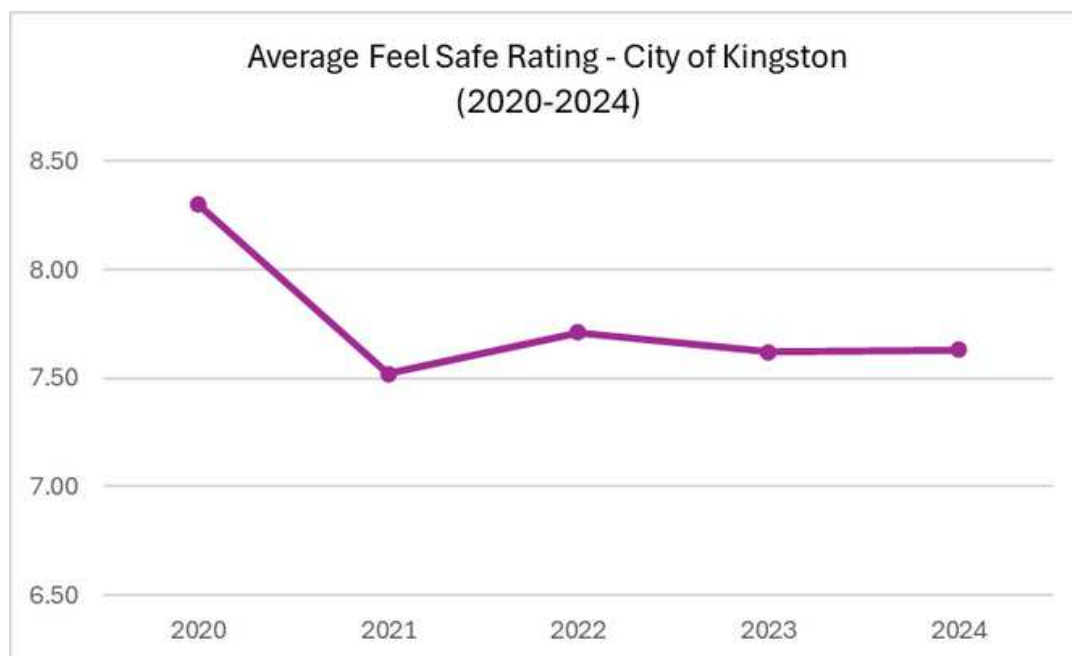
responded with Yes

In 2024,

71% (n = 35)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.74**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

57% (n = 21)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

55% (n = 62)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

71% (n = 21)

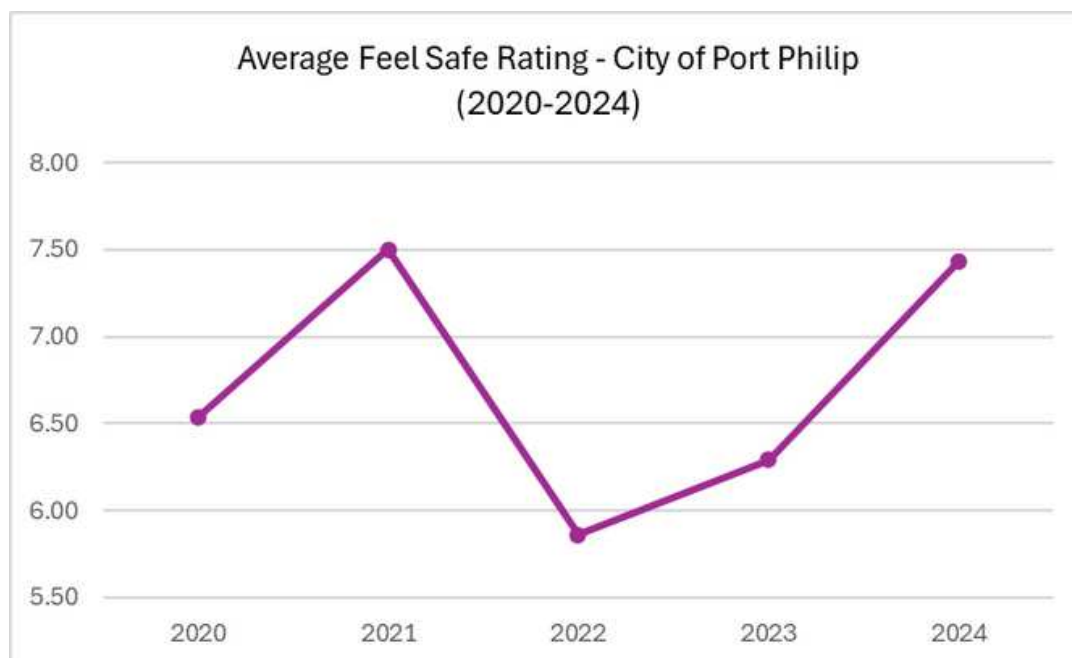
responded with Yes

In 2024,

78% (n = 62)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **6.98**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

30% (n = 10)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

48% (n = 40)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

70% (n = 10)

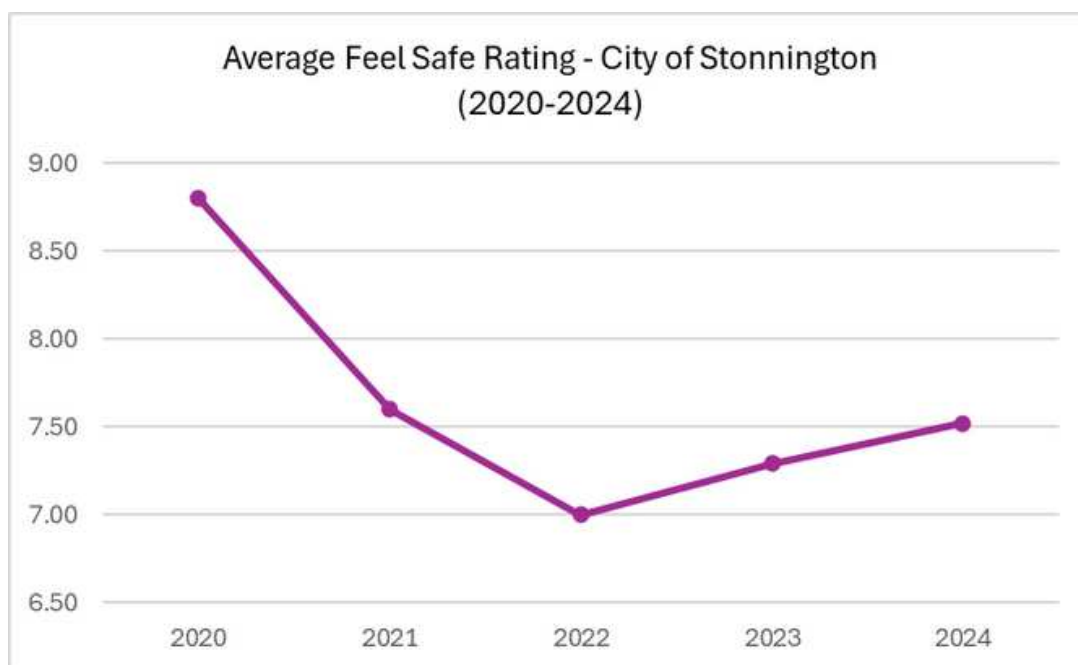
responded with Yes

In 2024,

73% (n = 40)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.62**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

70% (n = 10)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

67% (n = 33)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

90% (n = 10)

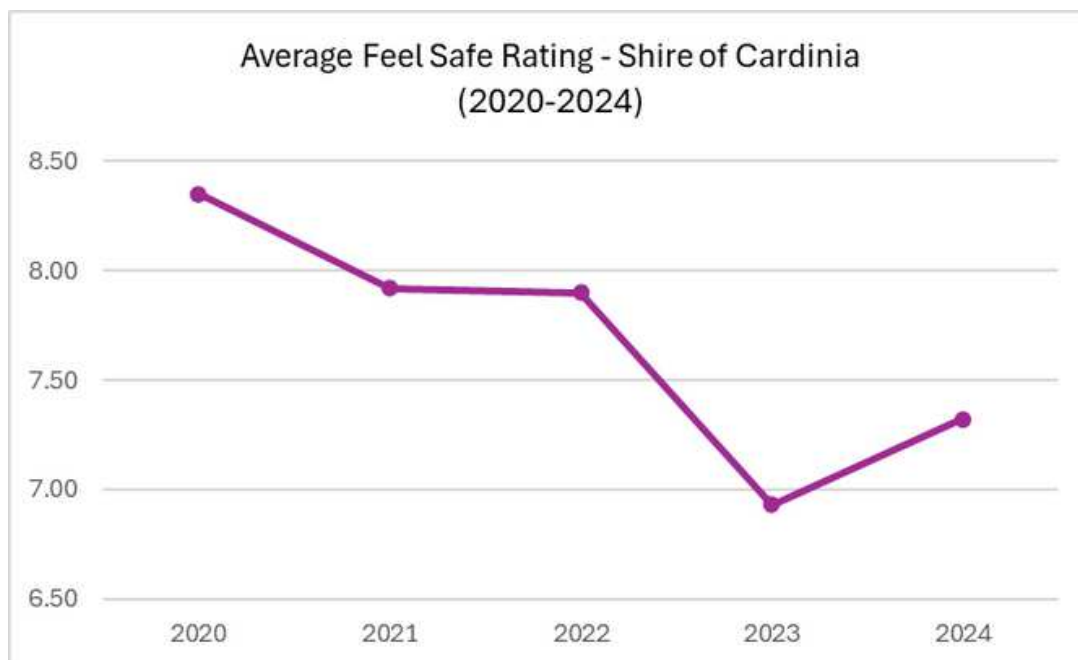
responded with Yes

In 2024,

70% (n = 33)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.59**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

52% (n = 25)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

53% (n = 38)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

68% (n = 25)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

66% (n = 38)

responded with Yes

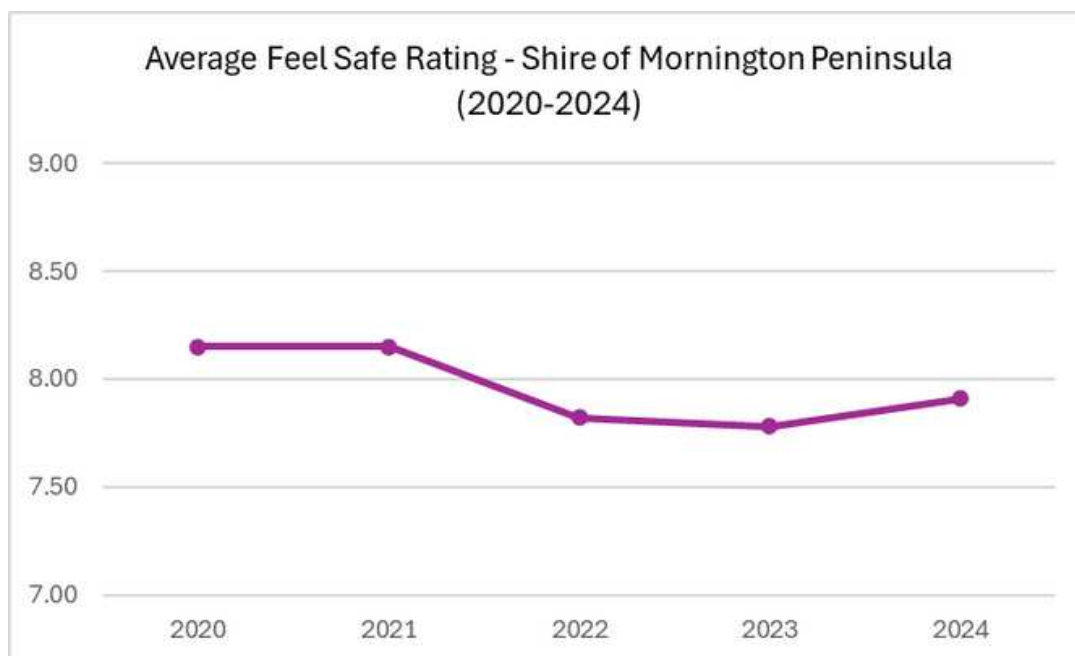
Shire of Mornington Peninsula



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.94**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

46% (n = 13)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

52% (n = 96)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

77% (n = 13)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

61% (n = 96)

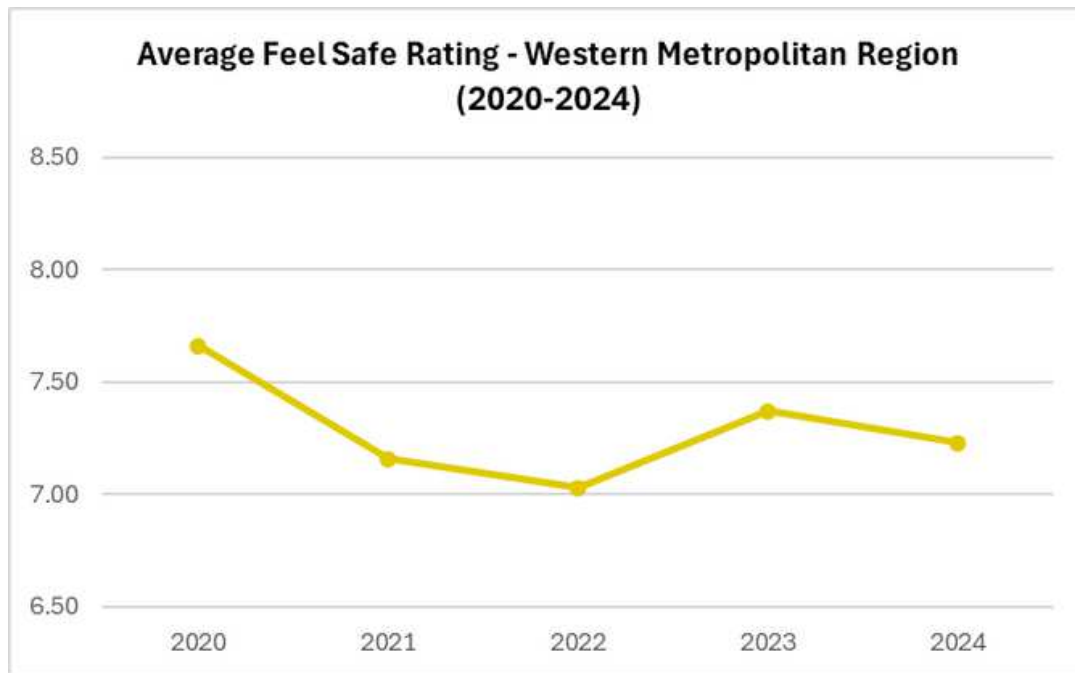
responded with Yes



Western Metropolitan

Western Metropolitan

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.29**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

53%

responded with Yes

In 2024,

63%

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

80%

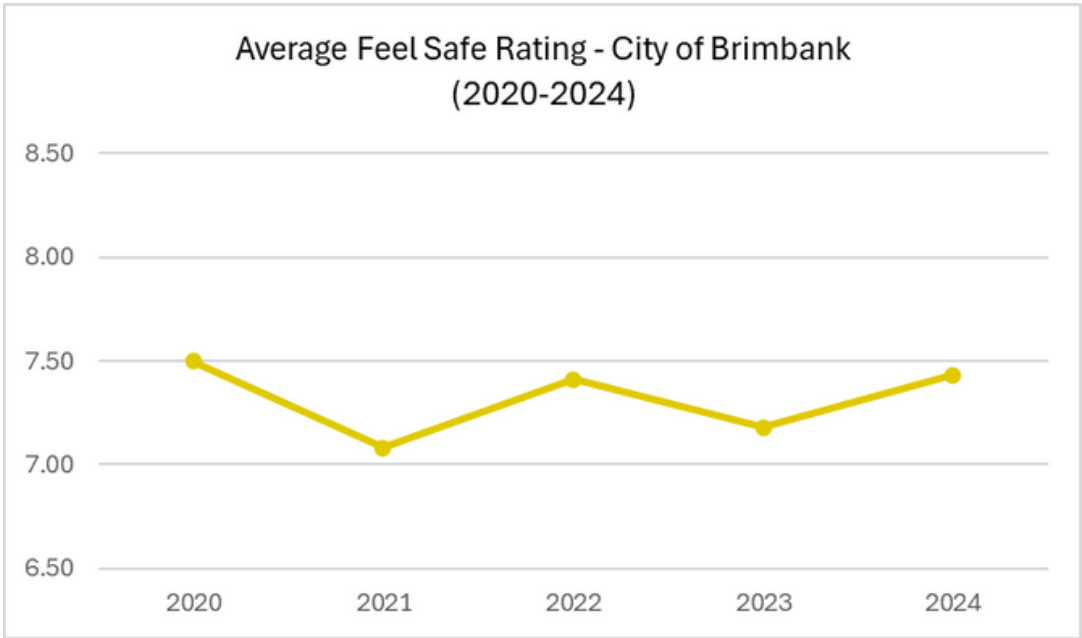
responded with Yes

In 2024,

74%

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: 7.30



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

53% (n = 36)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

60% (n = 30)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

81% (n = 36)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

73% (n = 30)

responded with Yes

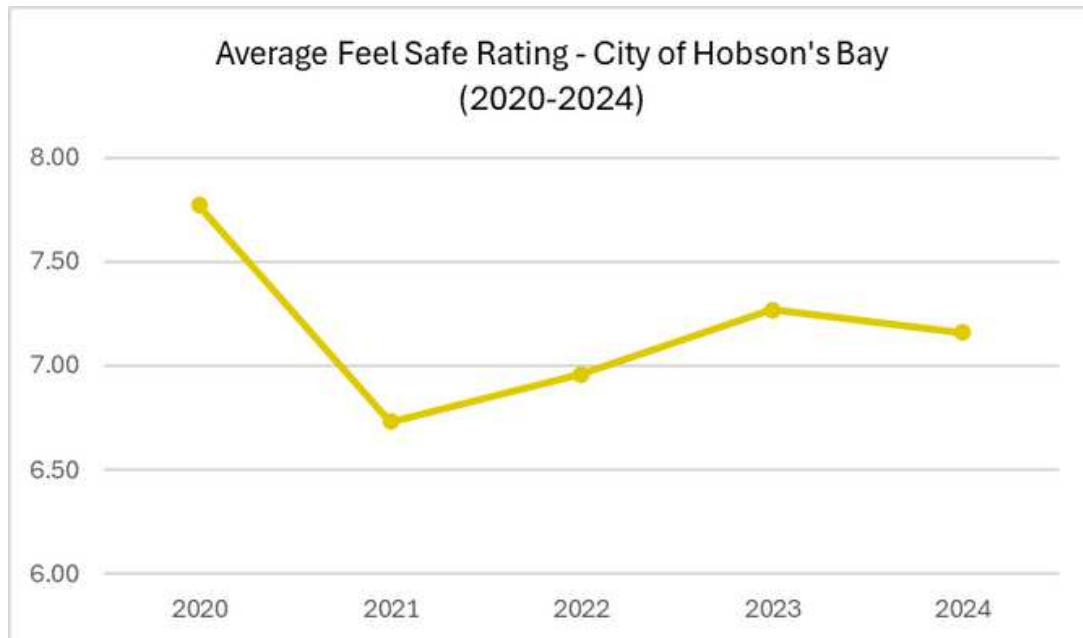
City of Hobson's Bay



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.15**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

41% (n = 44)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

70% (n = 56)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

75% (n = 44)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

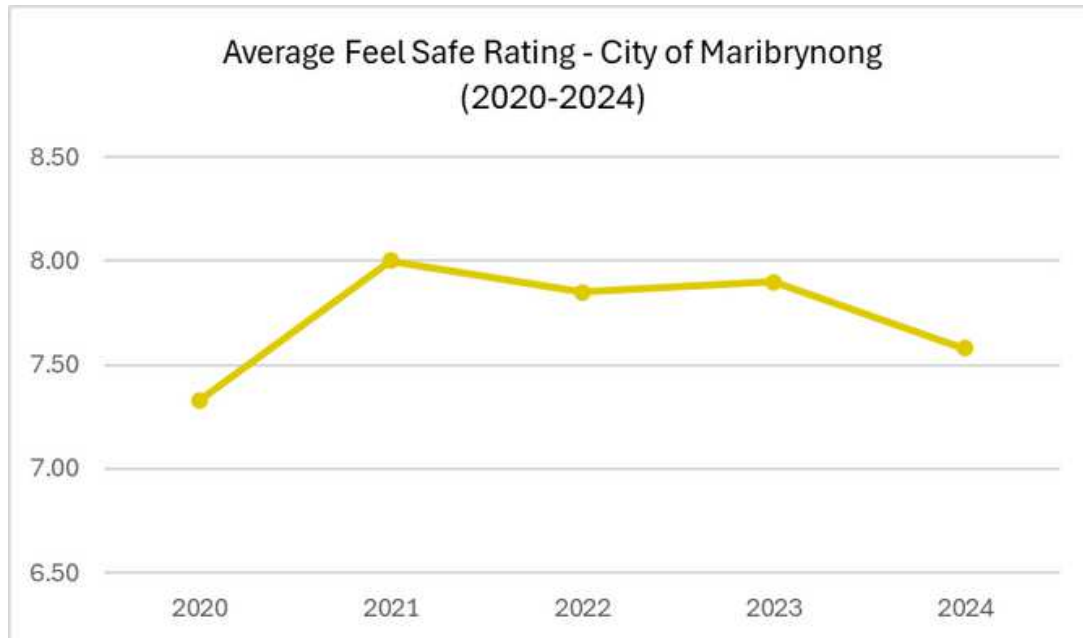
73% (n = 56)

responded with Yes

City of Maribrynong



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.69**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

40% (n = 10)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

47% (n = 19)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

80% (n = 10)

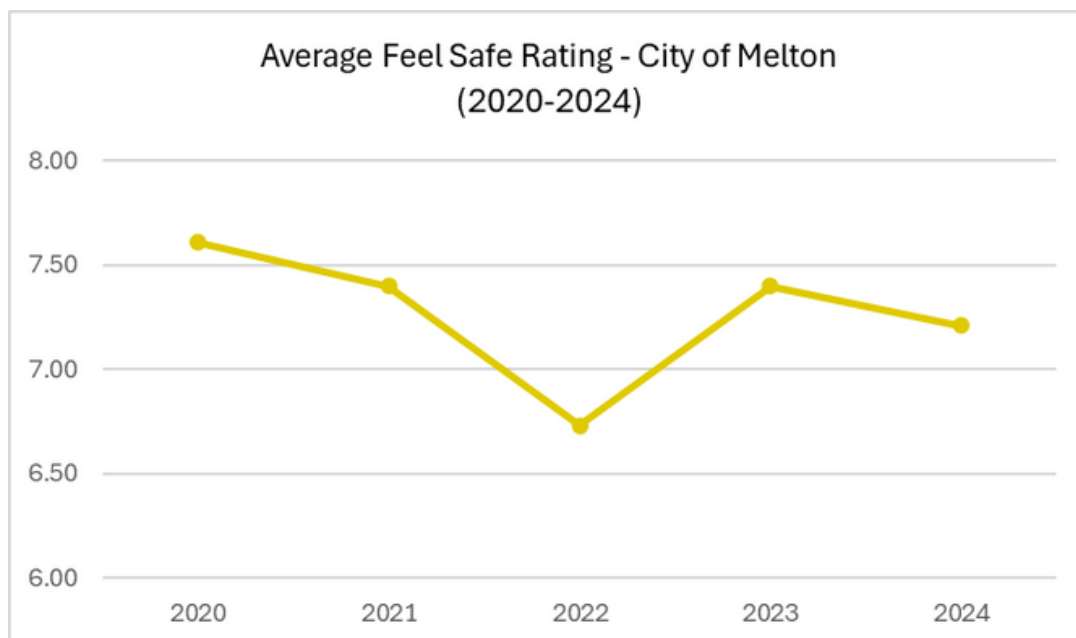
responded with Yes

In 2024,

68% (n = 19)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.28**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

92% (n = 48)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

80% (n = 42)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

63% (n = 48)

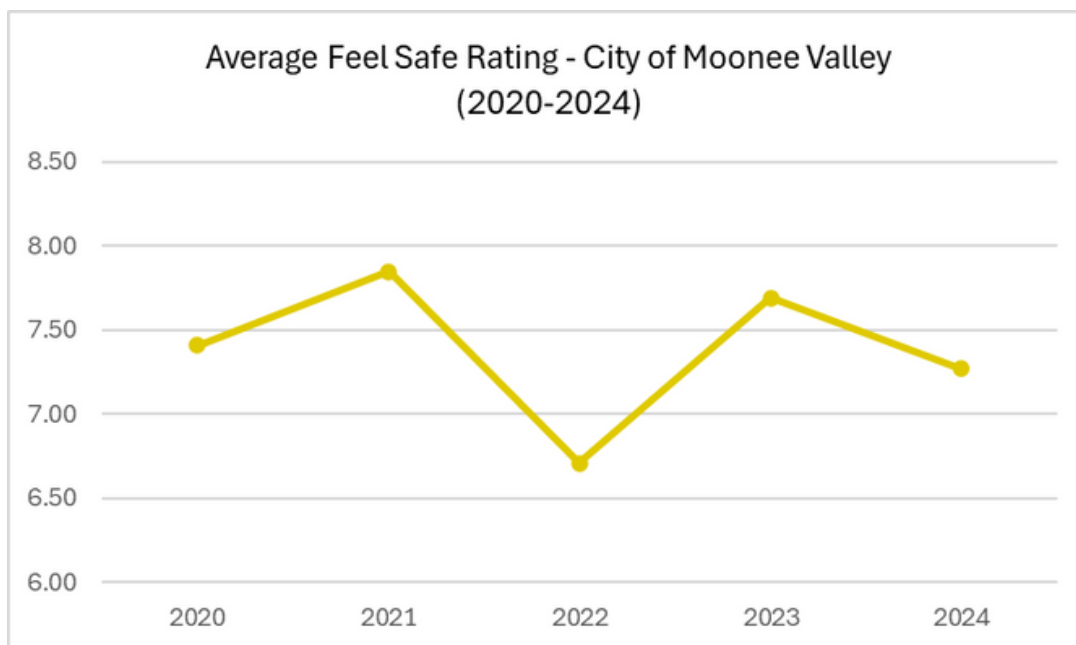
responded with Yes

In 2024,

67% (n = 42)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.43**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

38% (n = 13)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

59% (n = 22)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

33% (n = 13)

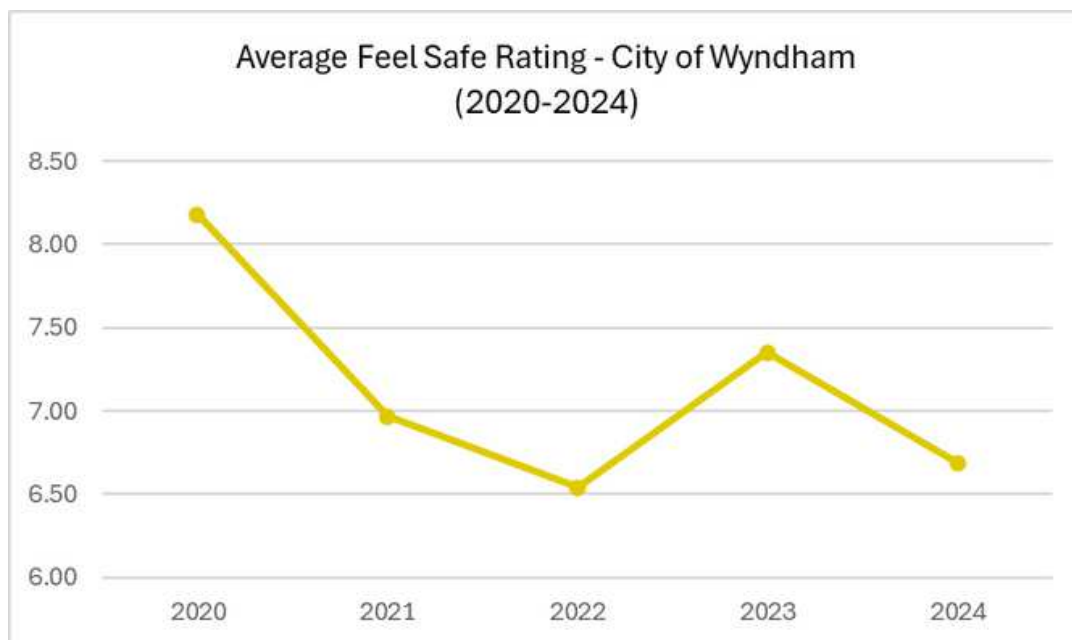
responded with Yes

In 2024,

63% (n = 22)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.19**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

62% (n = 37)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

56% (n = 16)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

76% (n = 37)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

69% (n = 16)

responded with Yes

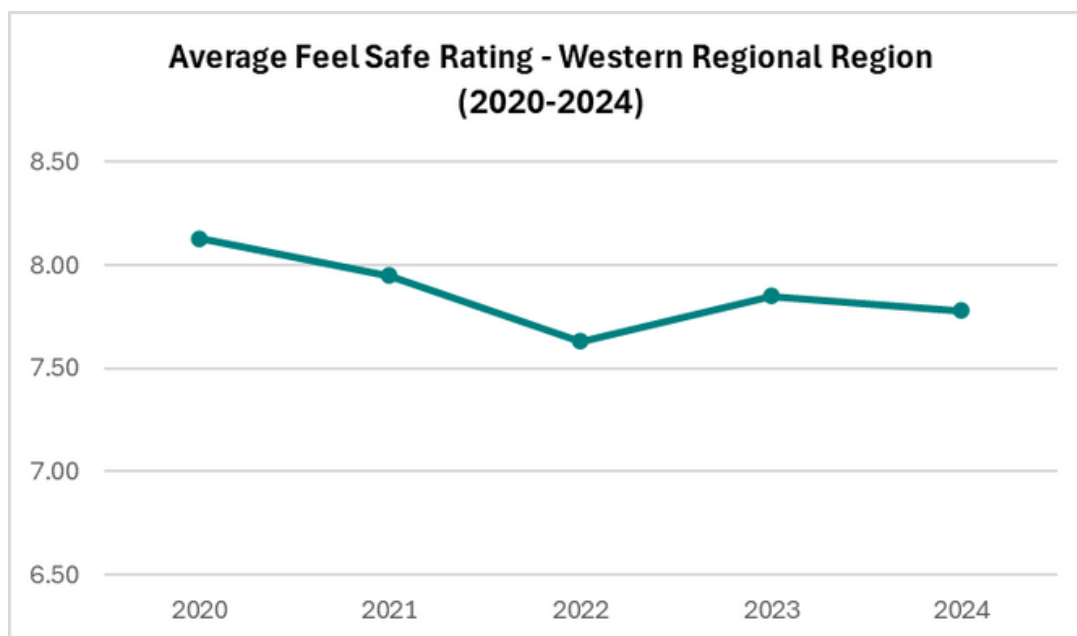
Western Regional

Western Regional

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.87**



Supported by



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

45%

responded with Yes

In 2024,

43%

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

64%

responded with Yes

In 2024,

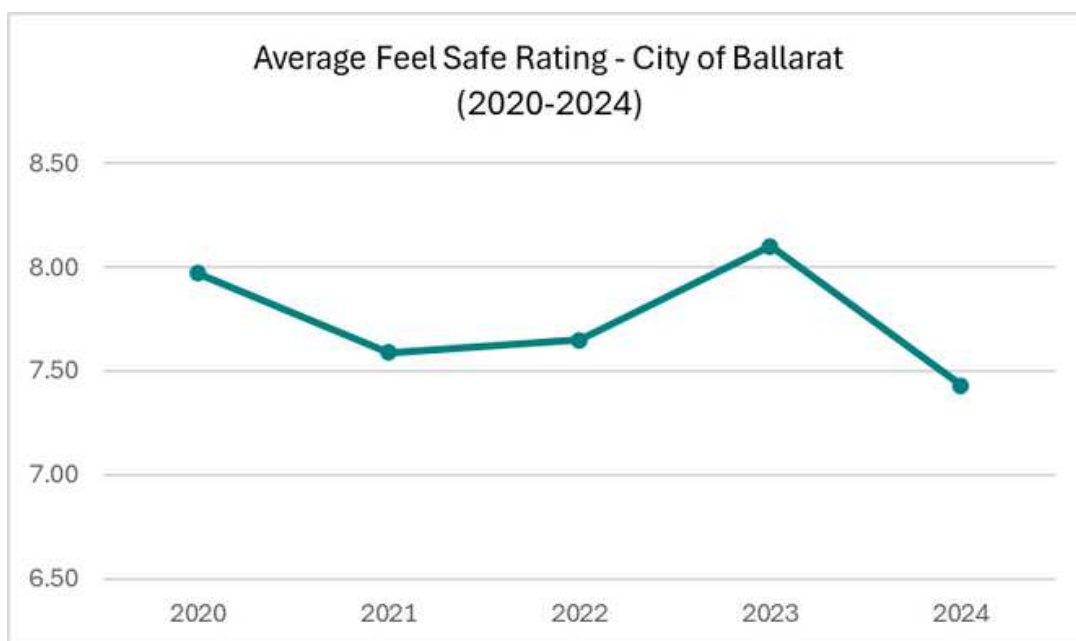
63%

responded with Yes

City of Ballarat



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.72**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

53% (n = 17)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

37% (n = 51)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

65% (n = 17)

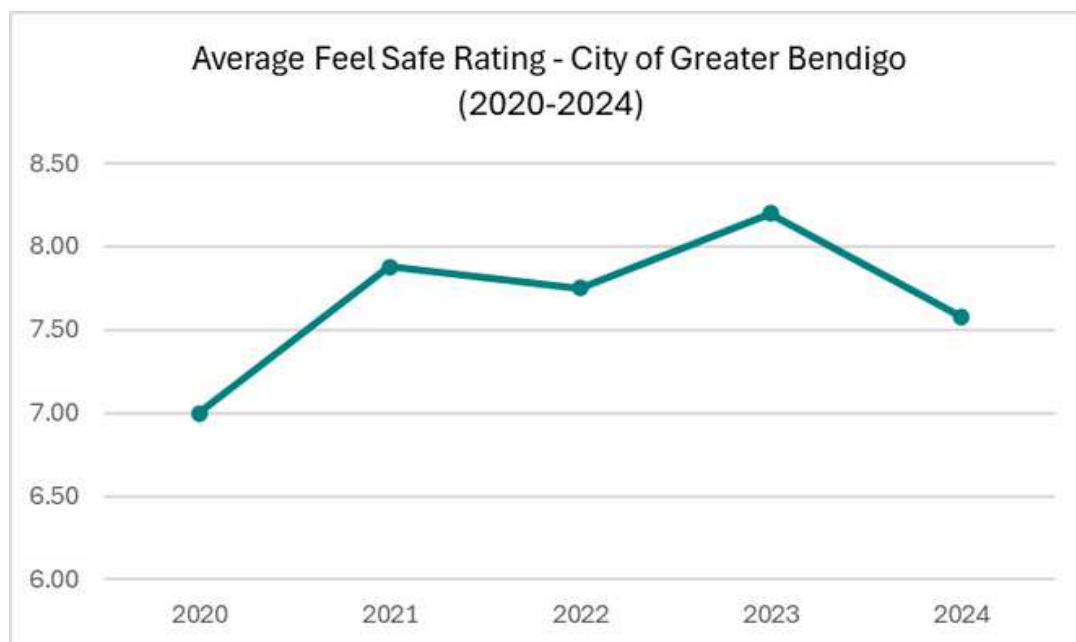
responded with Yes

In 2024,

71% (n = 51)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.62**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

56% (n = 16)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

42% (n = 24)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

44% (n = 16)

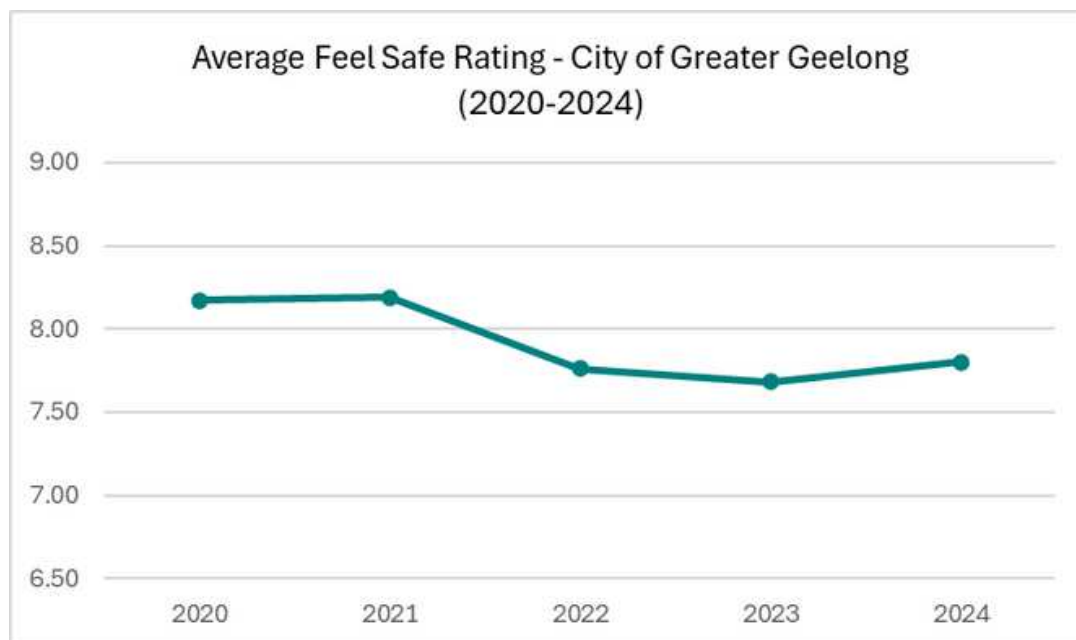
responded with Yes

In 2024,

58% (n = 24)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.90**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

35% (n = 37)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

43% (n = 115)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

68% (n = 37)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

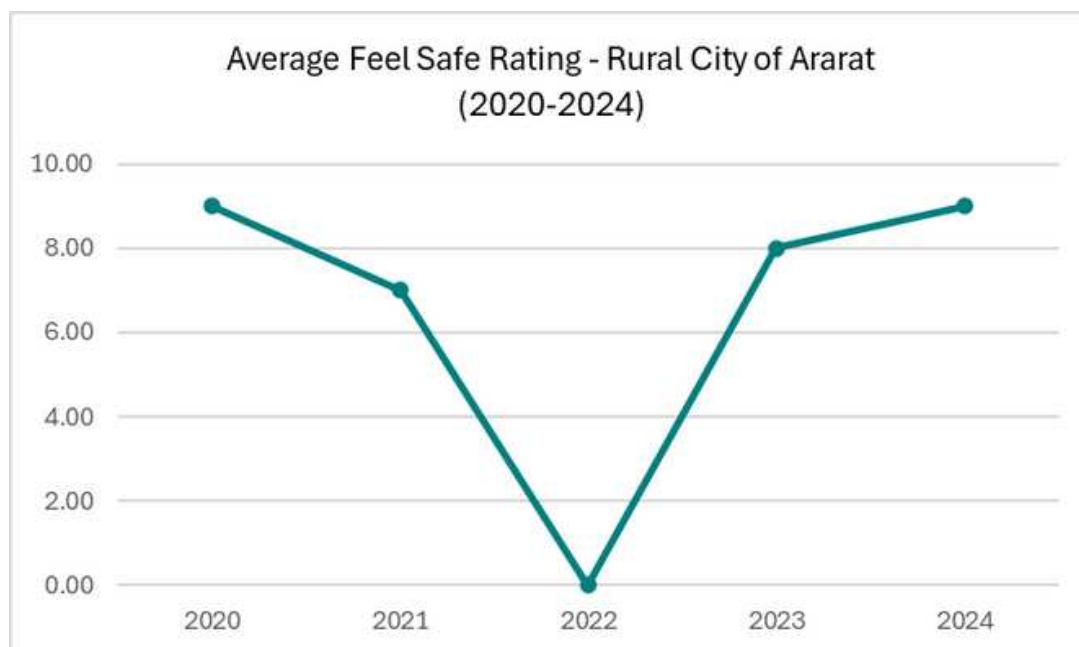
67% (n = 115)

responded with Yes

Rural City of Ararat



Average Feel Safe Rating: **8.57**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

0% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

67% (n = 3)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

0% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

33% (n = 3)

responded with Yes



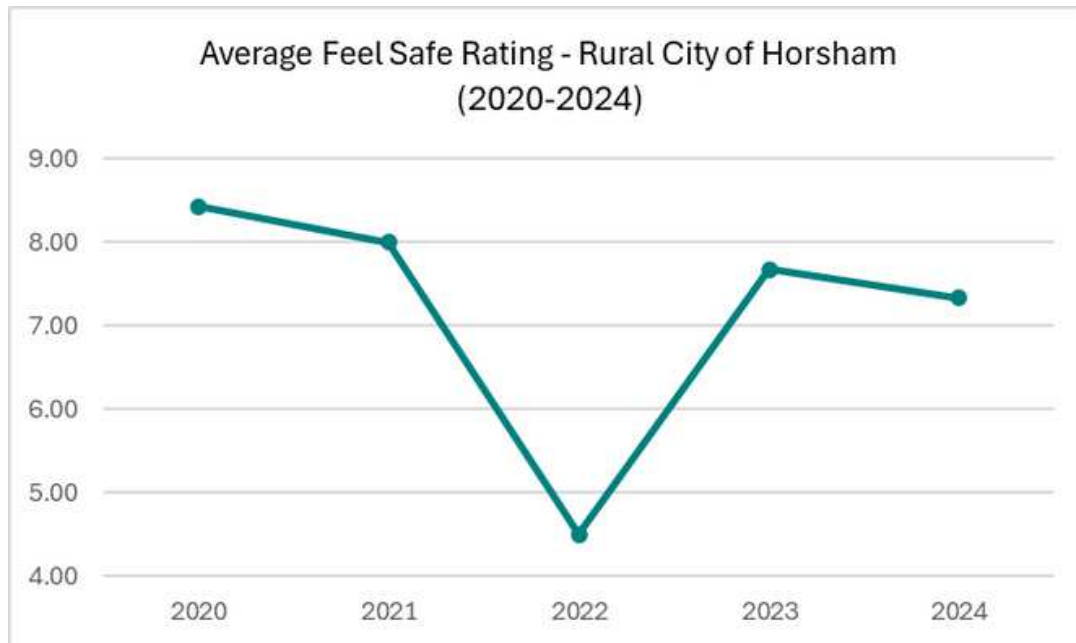
Rural City of Horsham



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.60**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

0% (n = 2)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

33% (n = 3)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

100% (n = 2)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

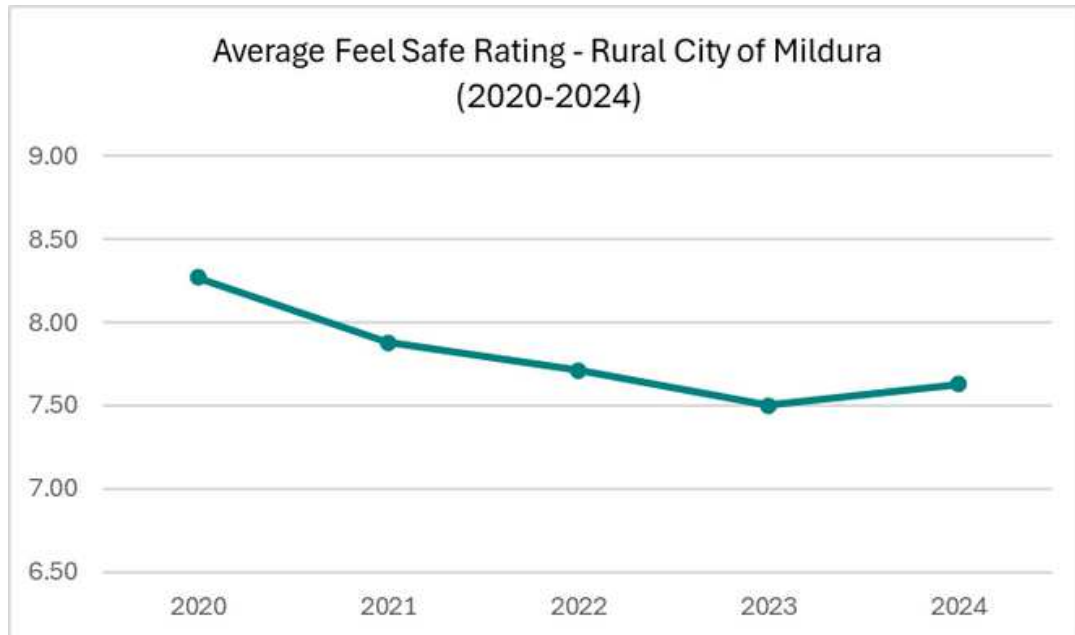
67% (n = 3)

responded with Yes

Rural City of Mildura



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.80**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

38% (n = 8)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

38% (n = 8)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

75% (n = 8)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

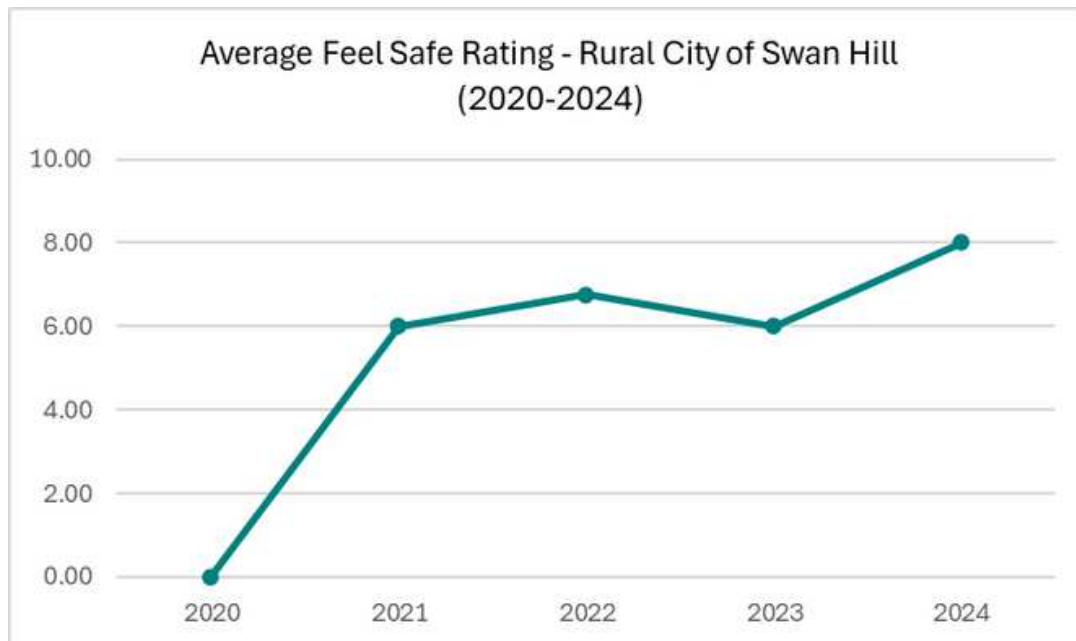
88% (n = 8)

responded with Yes

Rural City of Swan Hill



Average Feel Safe Rating: **6.71**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

100% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

100% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

100% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

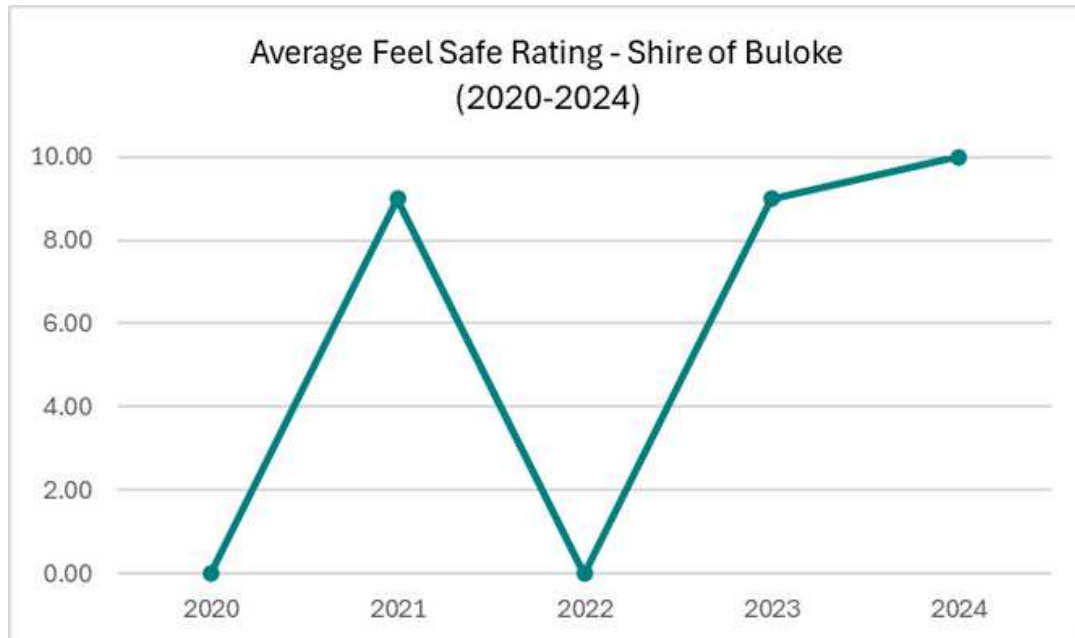
100% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

Shire of Buloke



Average Feel Safe Rating: **9.33**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

0% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

100% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

0% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

100% (n = 1)

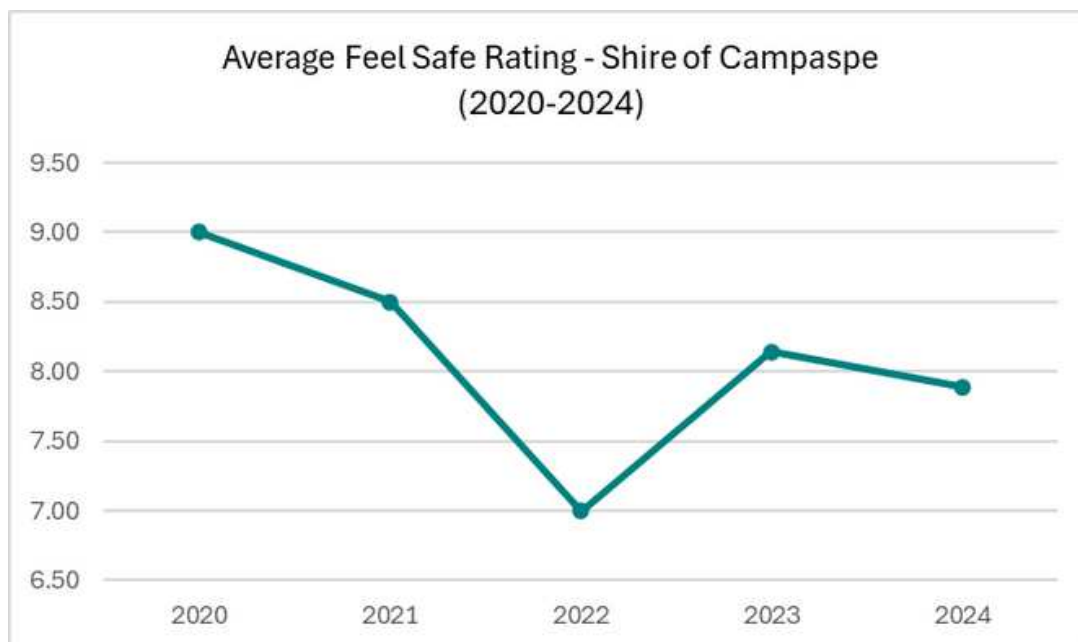
responded with Yes

Shire of Campaspe



Supported by
RACV

Average Feel Safe Rating: **8.19**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

75% (n = 4)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

56% (n = 9)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

100% (n = 4)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

44% (n = 9)

responded with Yes



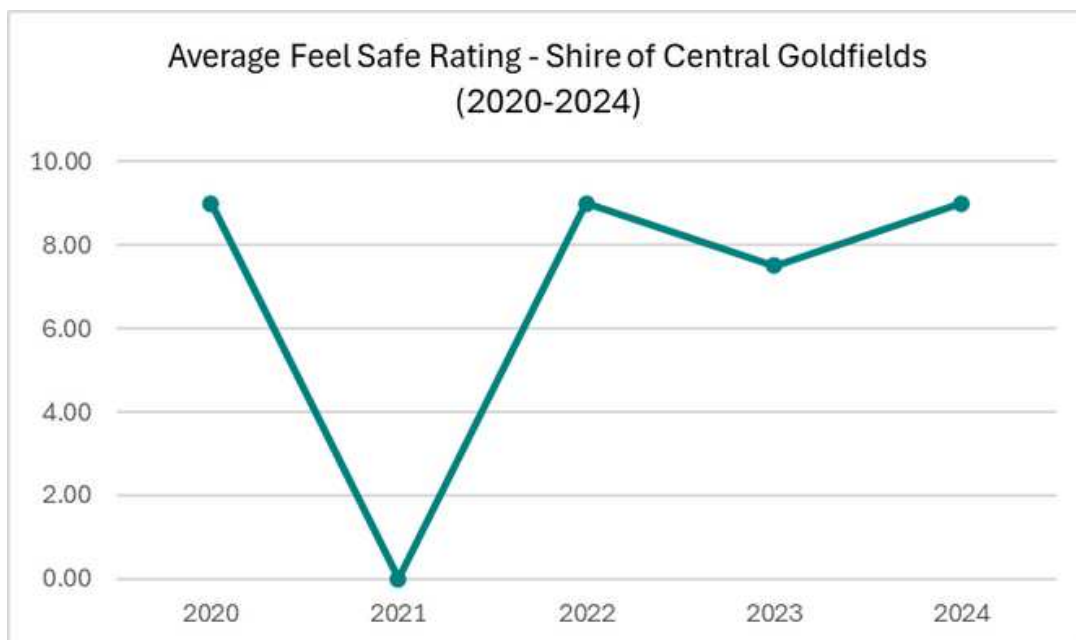
Shire of Central Goldfields



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **8.50**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

0% (n = 2)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

0% (n = 2)

responded with Yes



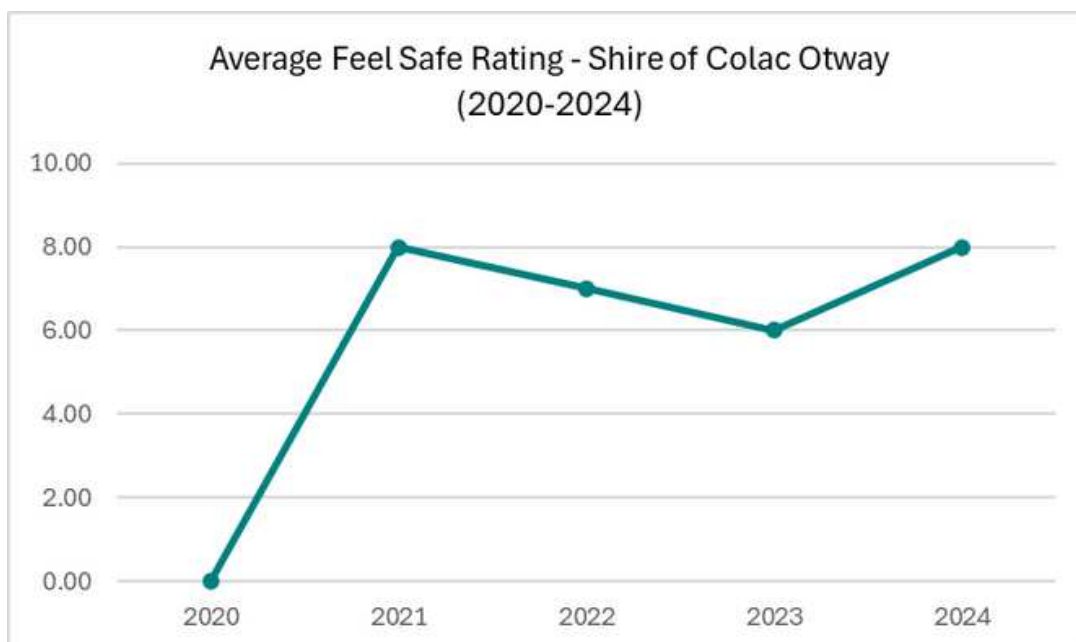
Shire of Colac Otway



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.46**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

25% (n = 4)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

50% (n = 4)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

75% (n = 4)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

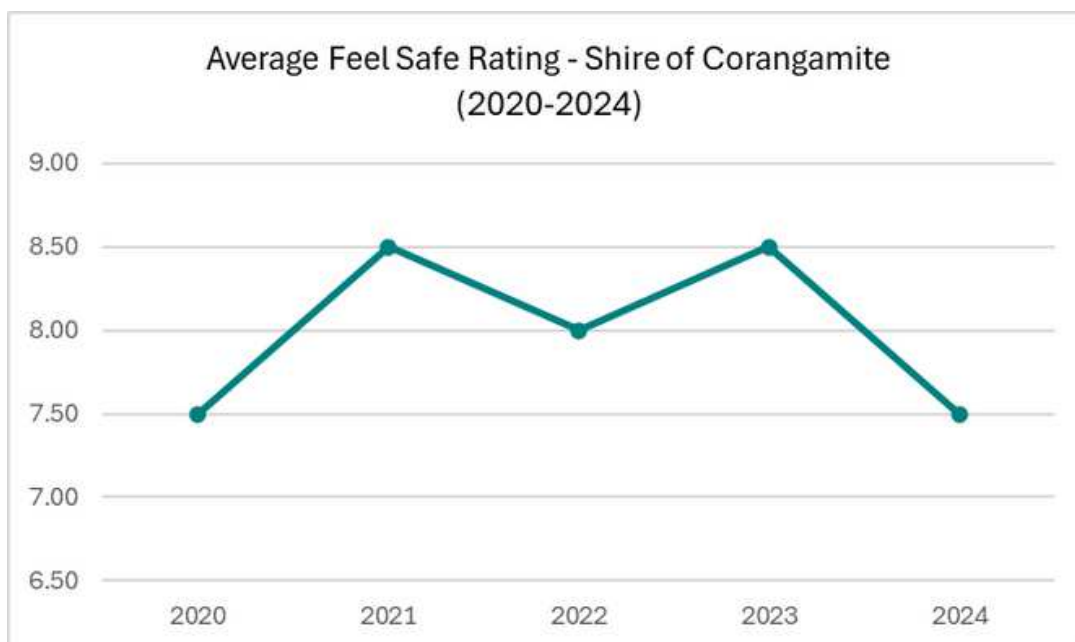
25% (n = 4)

responded with Yes

Shire of Corangamite



Average Feel Safe Rating: **8.00**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

0% (n = 2)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

50% (n = 2)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

0% (n = 2)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

50% (n = 2)

responded with Yes



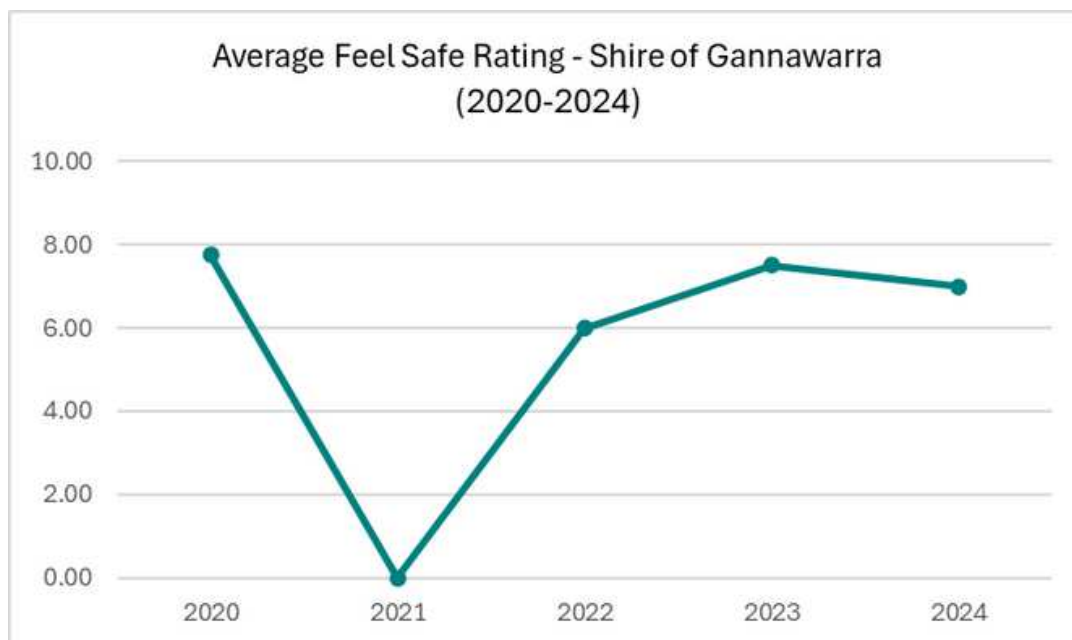
Shire of Gannawarra



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.30**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

67% (n = 3)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

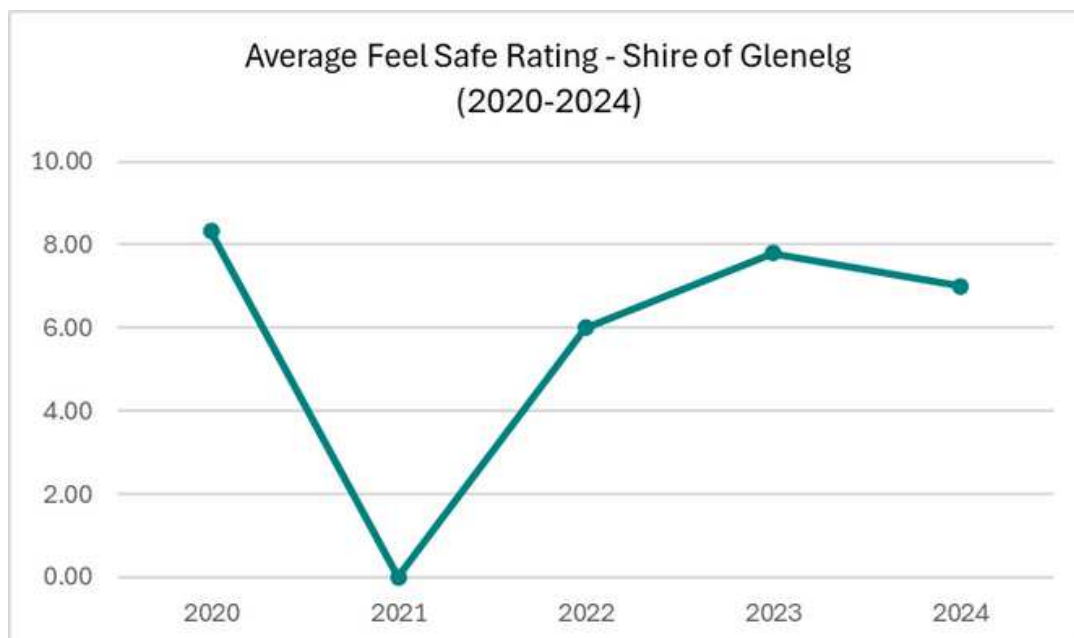
67% (n = 3)

responded with Yes

Shire of Glenelg



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.64**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

0% (n = 2)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

50% (n = 2)

responded with Yes

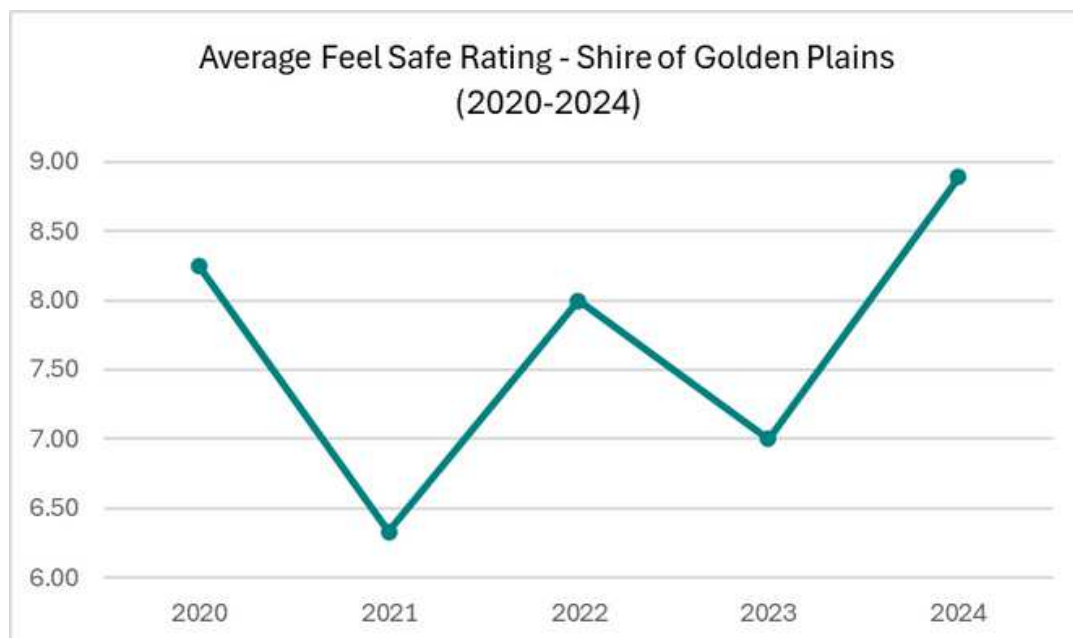
Shire of Golden Plains



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **8.04**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

33% (n = 3)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

56% (n = 9)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

33% (n = 3)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

56% (n = 9)

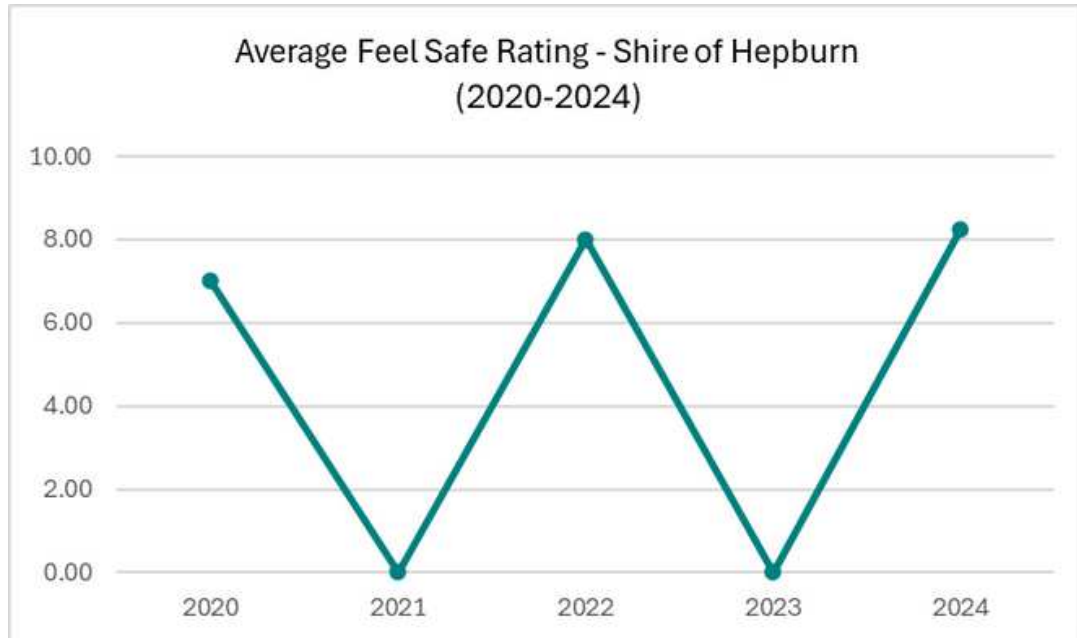
responded with Yes



Shire of Hepburn



Average Feel Safe Rating: **8.00**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

75% (n = 4)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

75% (n = 4)

responded with Yes

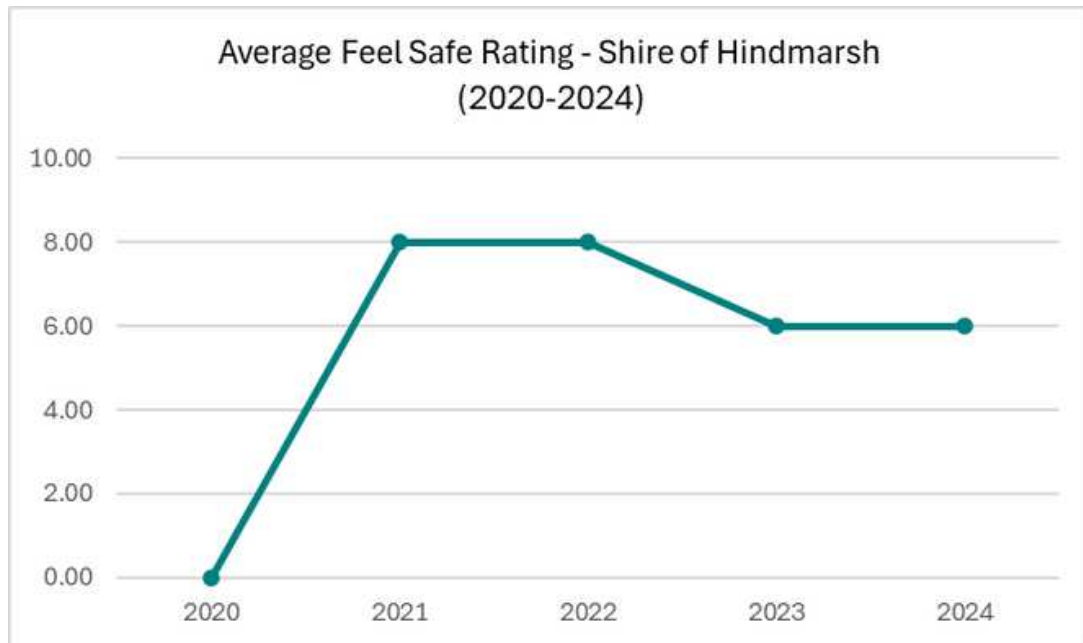
Shire of Hindmarsh



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.20**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

100% (n = 2)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

0% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

50% (n = 2)

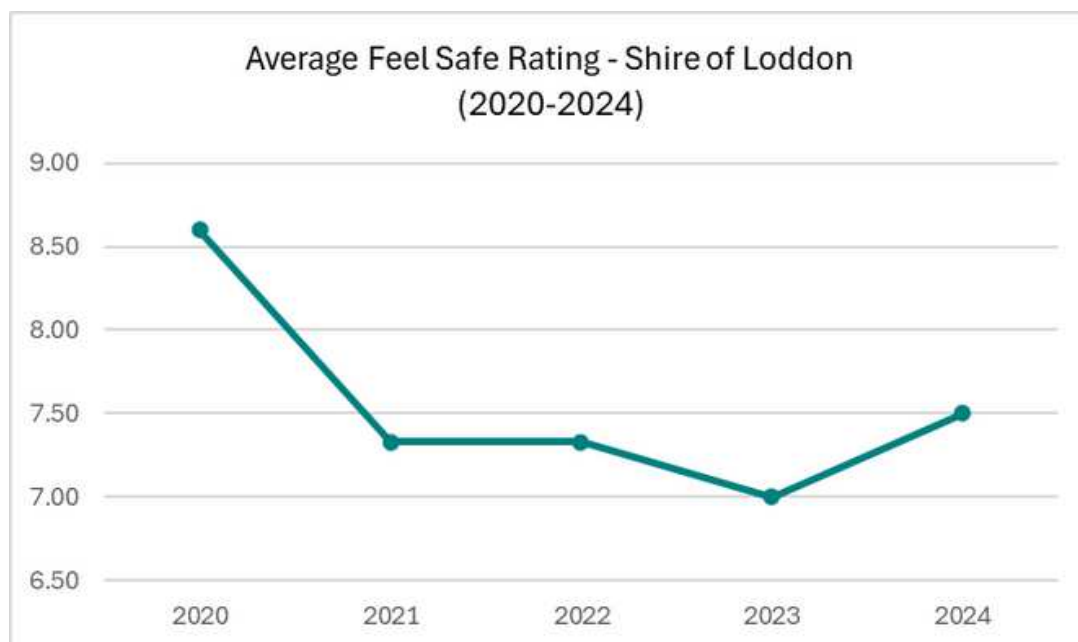
responded with Yes

In 2024,

0% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.51**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

17% (n = 6)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

38% (n = 14)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

83% (n = 6)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

57% (n = 14)

responded with Yes

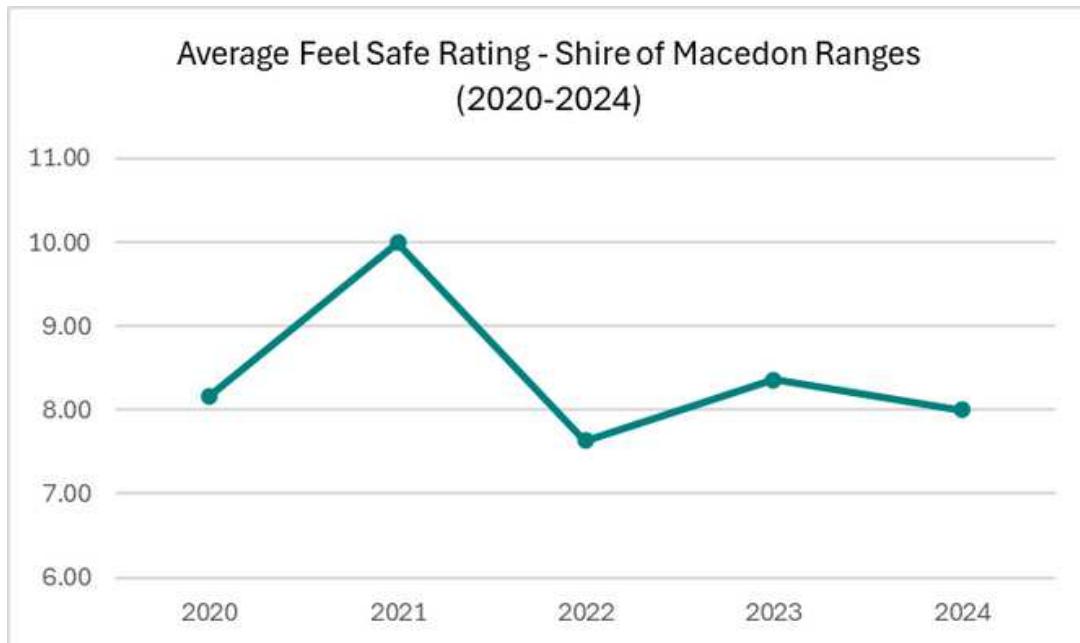
Shire of Macedon Ranges



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **8.15**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

100% (n = 2)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

62% (n = 13)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

100% (n = 2)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

69% (n = 13)

responded with Yes

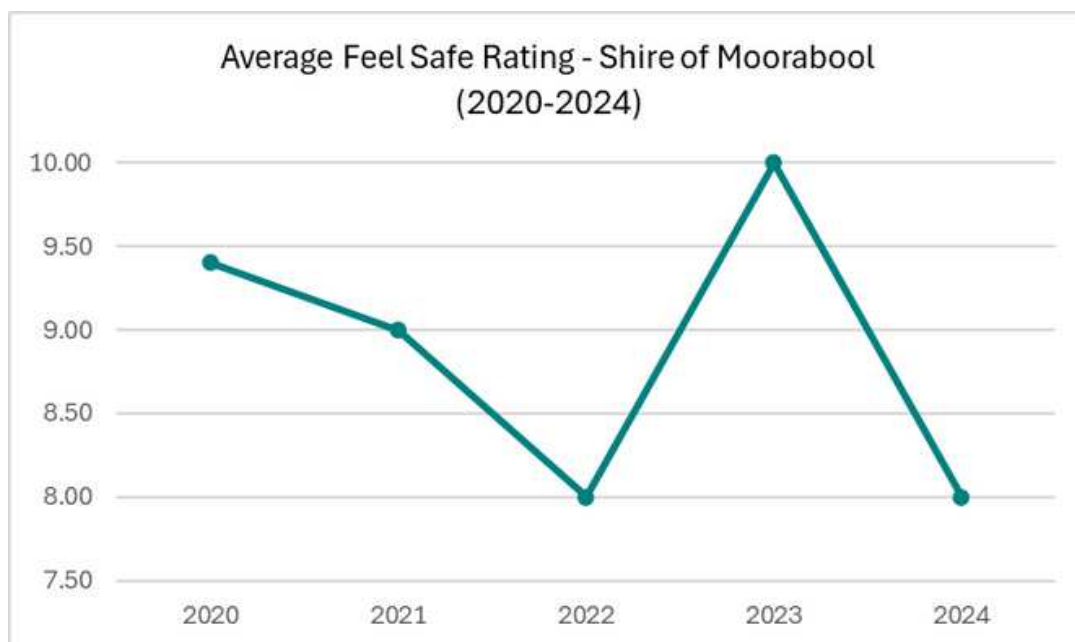
Shire of Moorabool



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **8.52**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

33% (n = 3)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

50% (n = 8)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

67% (n = 3)

responded with Yes

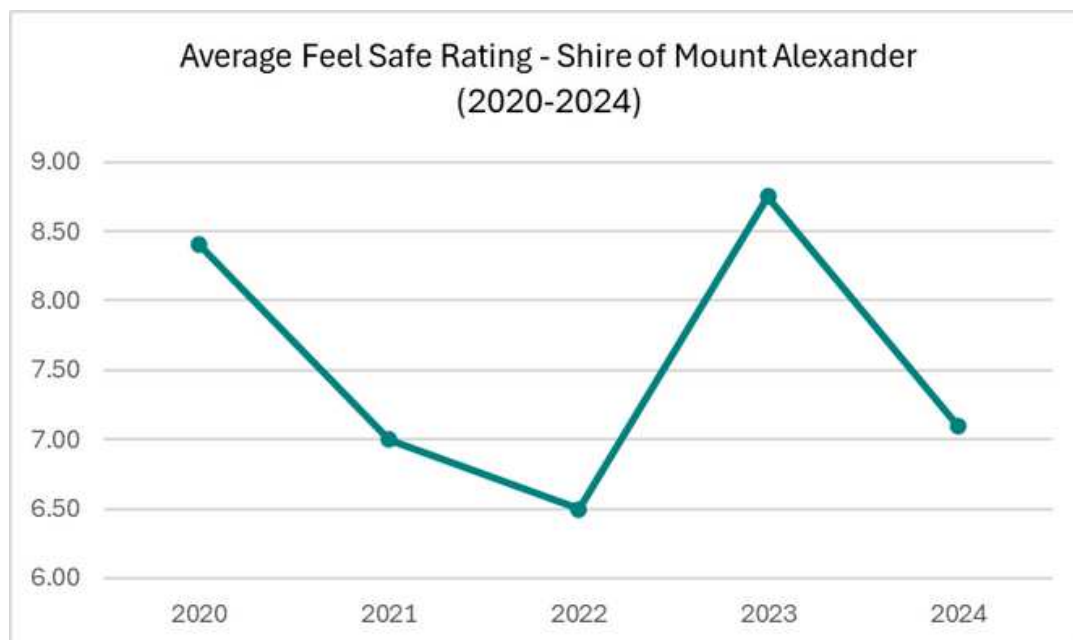
In 2024,

63% (n = 8)

responded with Yes



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.61**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

50% (n = 2)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

50% (n = 10)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

100% (n = 2)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

70% (n = 10)

responded with Yes

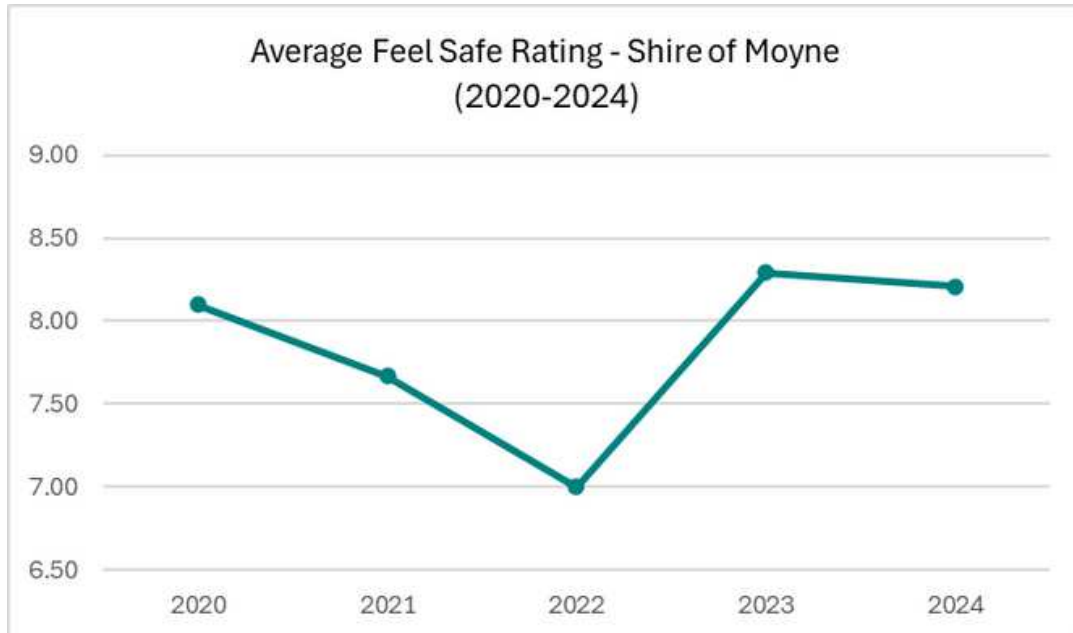
Shire of Moyne



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **8.03**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

83% (n = 6)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

43% (n = 14)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

50% (n = 6)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

57% (n = 14)

responded with Yes

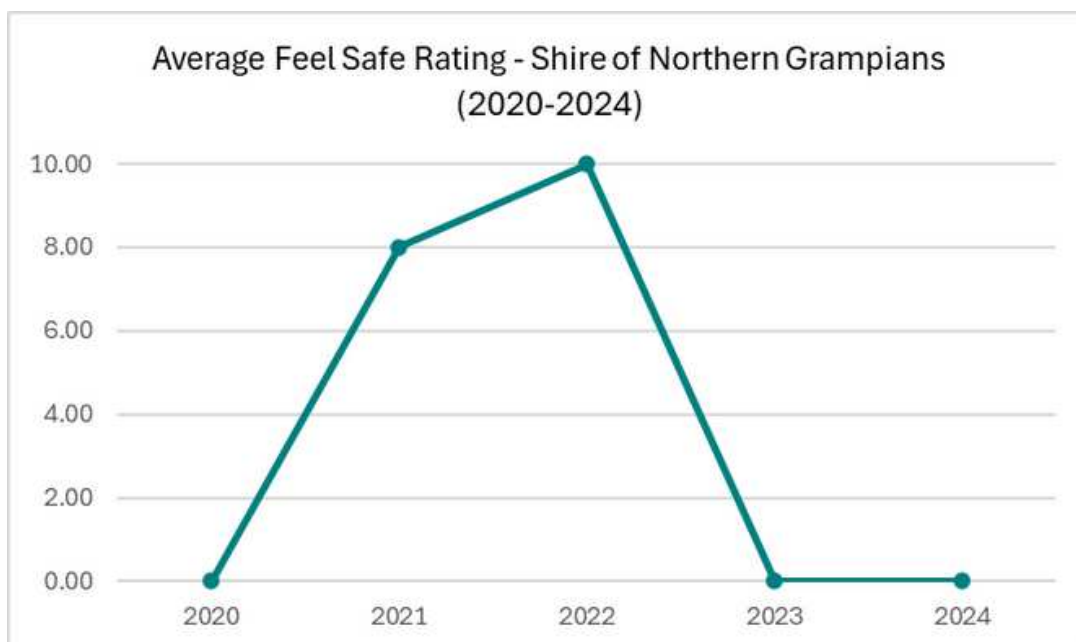
Shire of Northern Grampians



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **9.00**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

0% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

100% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

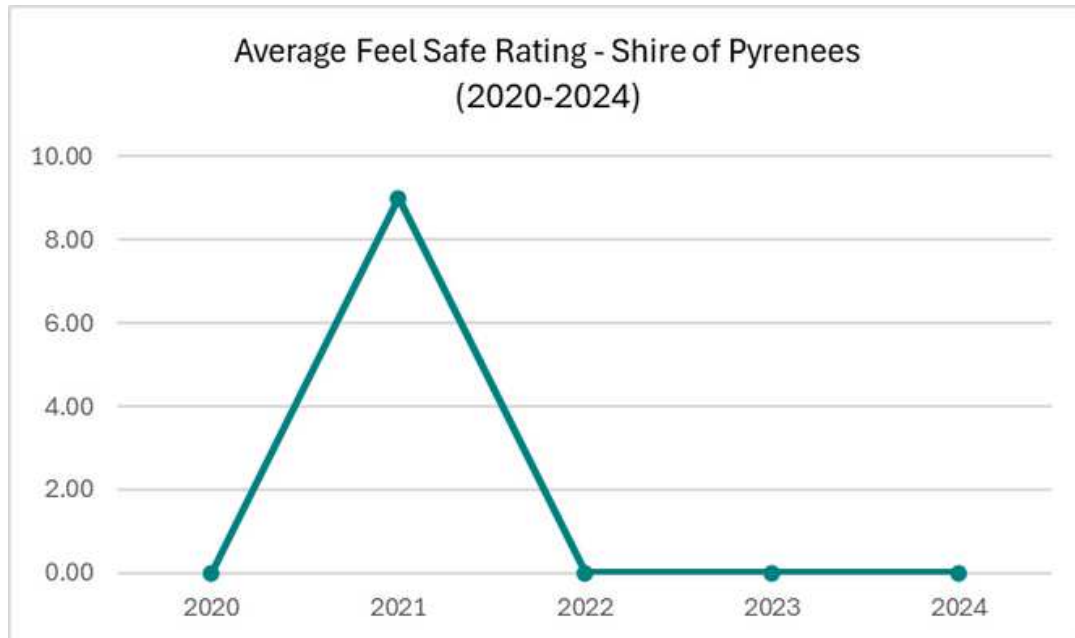
N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

Shire of Pyrenees



Average Feel Safe Rating: **9.00**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

100% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

100% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

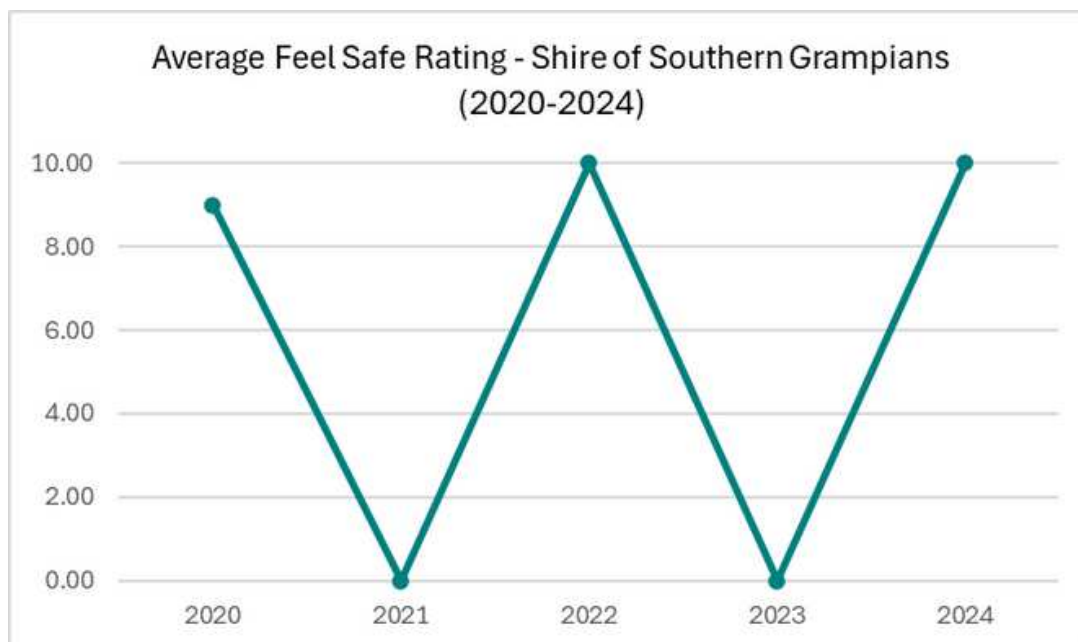
Shire of Southern Grampians



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **9.67**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

0% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

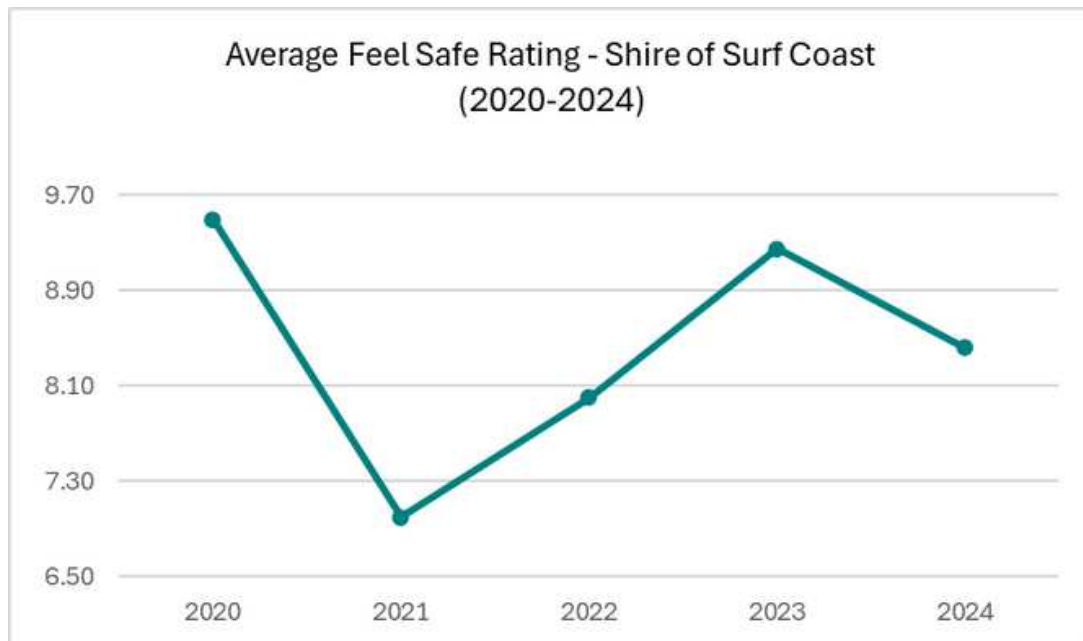
0% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

Shire of Surf Coast



Average Feel Safe Rating: **8.55**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

0% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

25% (n = 12)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

0% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

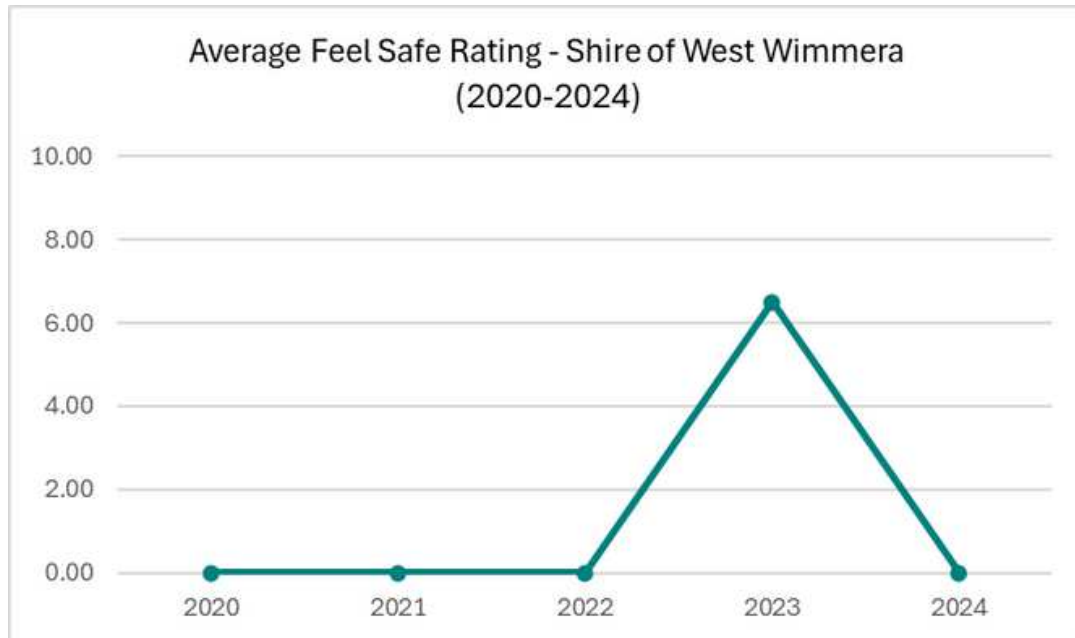
50% (n = 12)

responded with Yes

Shire of West Wimmera



Average Feel Safe Rating: **6.50**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

N/A (n = 0)

responded with Yes

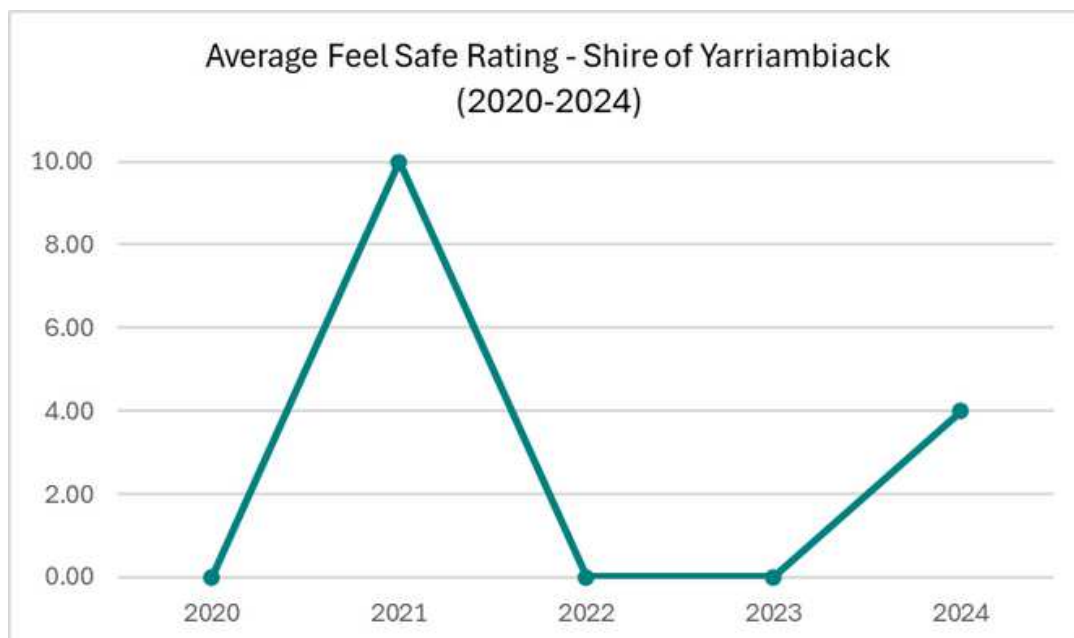
Shire of Yarriambiack



Supported by



Average Feel Safe Rating: **7.00**



Does your home have any home security system?

In 2021,

100% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

0% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

I keep all my doors and windows locked when I am at home or in my yard

In 2021,

0% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

In 2024,

100% (n = 1)

responded with Yes

Key Findings

Key Findings

Perceived Home Safety Across Victoria

Analysis of the data revealed a clear pattern: participants who reported five or more preventative behaviours, such as locking doors, using security systems, or maintaining outdoor lighting, tended to rate their home safety higher, typically scoring between 8 and 10 on the self-assessment scale. In contrast, those with fewer security behaviours most often rated their safety between 4 and 6.

While this does not establish causation, it suggests a strong association between taking action and feeling safe. Dashboard visualisations highlighted this relationship, with clusters of higher perceived safety aligning with more proactive safety behaviours.

The quiz offers both:

- **A subjective lens: how safe someone feels at home**
- **An objective lens: what safety measures they enact**
- **A key insight: those who take more preventative actions tend to feel safer overall**

This reinforces the idea that home security contributes not only to physical protection but also to increased confidence, peace of mind, and perceived well-being. Prosocial responses to crime fears, particularly getting to know neighbours, have emerged as key protective factors in fostering a stronger sense of safety at home.⁽⁵⁾

In terms of state-wide results, the Average Feel Safe Rating in 2024 was 7.66, reflecting a generally positive perception of home safety. Longitudinal analysis from 2020 to 2024 shows that overall perceptions have remained relatively stable. However, regional variation persists. The Western Regional area consistently reported the highest safety ratings, starting at 8.13 in 2020 and settling at 7.78 in 2024. Meanwhile, the Western Metropolitan region recorded the lowest average rating in 2024 at 7.23, despite a gradual improvement since a dip in 2022.

These findings highlight the importance of both behaviour and local context in shaping how safe people feel at home, and underscore the need for regionally tailored safety strategies.

Key Findings

Adoption of Active Security Measures

Between 2021 and 2024, there was a noticeable increase in the use of active home security measures, particularly the installation of security systems, across most Victorian regions. This trend reflects a growing awareness of formalised, technology-driven approaches to home protection and a broader shift toward more proactive safety behaviours among residents.

The Western Metropolitan region recorded the most significant growth, with the proportion of respondents indicating they had a security system rising from 52.66 per cent in 2021 to 62.70 per cent in 2024. This substantial increase may be linked to higher population density, greater exposure to perceived security threats, or stronger promotion of household security products and services in urban areas.

Moderate but consistent increases were also observed in the Eastern Metropolitan region, where the rate rose from 53.65 per cent to 56.44 per cent. Similarly, both the Eastern Regional and Northern Metropolitan regions showed growth, with figures increasing from 38.10 per cent to 45.96 per cent. These upward trends suggest that residents across a variety of urban and regional settings are increasingly turning to active, technology-based solutions to safeguard their homes.

In contrast, the Western Regional area experienced a slight decline in reported use of security systems, falling from 44.63 per cent in 2021 to 42.86 per cent in 2024. This exception highlights how regional context continues to shape engagement with active safety measures. Factors such as perceived need, cost, housing design, or limited access to security infrastructure may influence decision-making in these areas. It is also possible that residents in more rural settings rely more heavily on passive measures or a strong sense of community familiarity rather than formal deterrents.

Overall, the data points to a statewide trend toward increased adoption of home security systems. At the same time, it underscores the importance of ensuring that strategies to promote safety remain inclusive, responsive to local context, and sensitive to the diverse barriers and motivations that influence behaviour.

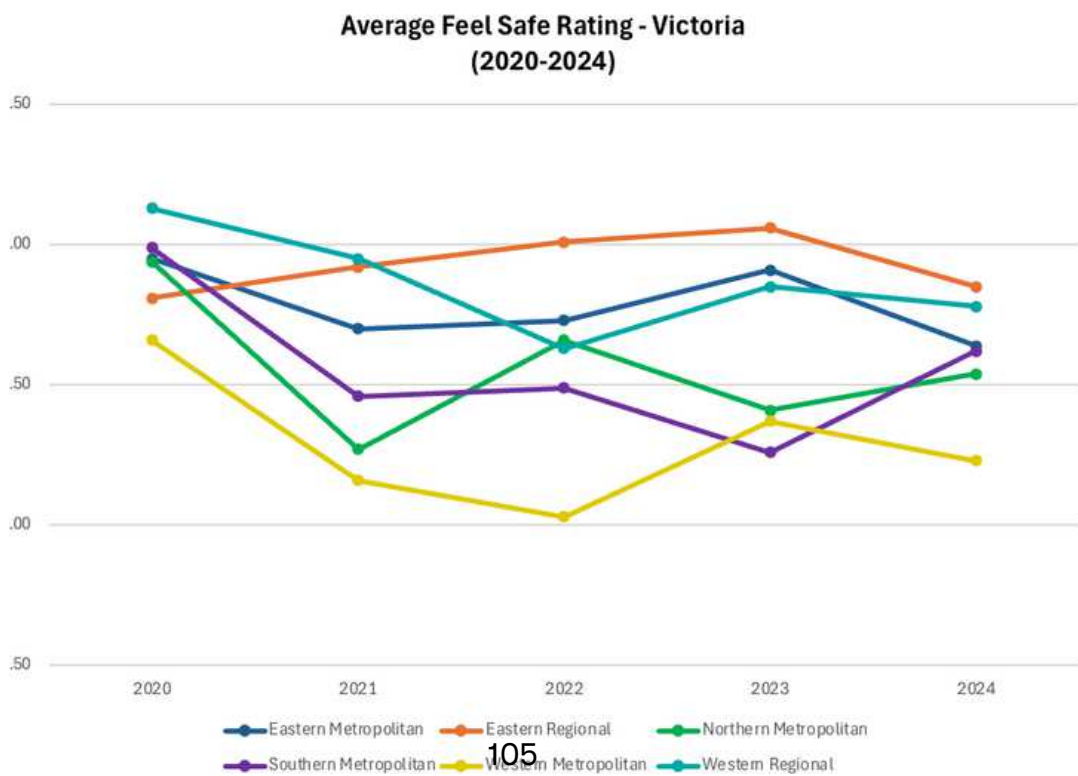
Key Findings

Persistence and Variability in Passive Security Behaviours

Passive security behaviours, such as locking doors and windows while at home or in the yard, remained relatively consistent across the survey period. These behaviours appear to be well-ingrained, with the majority of respondents continuing to report their use regardless of shifts in perceived safety. The Western Metropolitan region, while maintaining the highest reported frequency of this behaviour, showed a slight decline from 80.32% in 2021 to 75.68% in 2024. Similar minor decreases were recorded in the Southern Metropolitan (from 73.02% to 71.50%) and Eastern Metropolitan regions (from 66.15% to 64.92%).

By contrast, the Eastern Regional and Northern Metropolitan regions demonstrated stability, maintaining identical rates of 59.60% in 2024. The Western Regional region also remained steady, with a marginal shift from 63.64% to 63.17%. These findings reinforce the notion that passive security practices, while often subconscious and habitual, are shaped by long-standing social norms, upbringing, and environmental cues. However, the slight declines in certain metropolitan areas may suggest emerging complacency or shifting perceptions of local risk.

Due to privacy and security protections individual quiz responses are not stored, therefore respondent groups in 2021 and 2024 may not be the same individuals. Year-to-year comparisons should be interpreted cautiously, as differences may reflect population changes as well as behavioural shifts.



Acknowledged Limitations

While this report offers valuable insights into how Victorians perceive and respond to home safety, several limitations must be acknowledged in interpreting the findings.

Regional Data Gaps

Certain Local Government Areas (LGAs) had low response rates, limiting the ability to generalise findings for those regions. As a result, the data may not fully reflect the diversity of safety perceptions across the entire population in those areas. In regions with insufficient data, conclusions should be interpreted with caution, as they may under-represented key demographic or behavioural variations.

Population Density and Crime Exposure

Crime tends to occur more frequently in densely populated areas. Higher population numbers naturally increase opportunities for social interaction, which, in turn, can elevate the likelihood of exploitation, offences, or interpersonal harm.

Therefore, even when regional averages are reported, the “feel safe” rating remains highly subjective and situational, shaped not only by environment but also by localised experiences and context. Although the report offers a structured categorisation of perceived safety, the emotional and psychological dimensions captured are influenced by many external variables.

Barriers to Access and Participation

Several access-related limitations may have influenced both participation in the How Safe Is My House quiz and the implementation of security measures. The digital format of the quiz excluded individuals without reliable internet access or adequate digital literacy. This may have led to the under-representation of certain groups, including older adults, low-income households, and residents in remote or underserved areas. Furthermore, participation in the quiz was not based on a randomised sample. Instead, it was self-selected by individuals who discovered the quiz through outreach and were motivated to respond. As a result, the data may reflect the views of those with stronger opinions or heightened awareness of safety issues, and should not be interpreted as fully representative of the general population.

Acknowledged Limitations

The core question, “How safe do you feel in your home?”, serves as the foundation for the Feel Safe Rating. However, it does not capture the experiences of individuals who may feel unsafe within the home due to domestic or family violence. The question is more reflective of perceived threats from outside the home and may not account for all dimensions of household safety. This limitation should be carefully considered when interpreting findings related to the Feel Safe Rating.

Financial barriers may also prevent individuals from adopting certain security measures. For example, those experiencing economic hardship may be unable to install active security systems such as alarms or closed-circuit television, even when personal safety concerns are present. Additionally, access to crime prevention education and resources may be limited in some regional and remote communities. A lack of information and support may reduce awareness of risks and limit the implementation of protective strategies.

Engagement with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities has remained a central focus of this initiative. Language barriers, cultural differences, and the absence of culturally tailored resources may restrict meaningful engagement with safety tools and limit the uptake of available information. Perceptions of safety among CALD participants may also be shaped by prior migration experiences, cultural norms, and differing interpretations of what it means to feel safe. To improve accessibility and representation, the How Safe Is My House quiz was expanded in 2023 to include five additional languages: Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Arabic, Vietnamese, and Punjabi. While this change resulted in a notable increase in response rates in the most recent data, it is important to acknowledge that earlier datasets may under-represent CALD voices. This should be taken into account when comparing data over time or assessing longitudinal trends.

Future Plans

To strengthen the validity and depth of future analyses, the following areas have been identified as priorities for further exploration and development:

Exploring the Relationship Between Population Density and Crime Rates

- Future research will examine how population density correlates with reported crime and perceived safety ratings. Understanding whether higher density directly influences feelings of safety may provide more context to regional variations in perception.

Examining Socioeconomic Factors and Perceptions of Crime

- Additional focus will be placed on the socioeconomic profiles of communities, with an emphasis on how income, education, and housing stability influence what individuals define as crime and how they respond to perceived threats. This will support more nuanced, equity-informed policy recommendations.

Expanding Participation in Under-Represented Regions

- Several LGAs yielded fewer than five responses, limiting the representativeness and credibility of findings in those areas. Targeted outreach and community engagement strategies will be implemented to increase response rates in future survey cycles, ensuring a more balanced and inclusive dataset across Victoria.

Upgrading the Quiz for Nuance and Neutrality

- As part of ongoing improvements, the quiz will be updated to better reflect the complexity of real-life safety behaviours. Some current answer options lack nuance or fail to provide neutral choices, which can skew results or misrepresent behaviours. Enhancing the structure and language of the quiz will ensure participants can more accurately reflect their situations, strengthening the overall validity of the data collected.

Concluding Reflections

This report highlights the complex and multifaceted nature of how Victorians perceive home safety. Through both numerical ratings and behavioural responses, the How Safe Is My House quiz demonstrates that safety is not solely determined by the presence of security infrastructure or official crime statistics. Rather, it is shaped by a combination of emotional, cultural, socioeconomic, and environmental factors.

The data indicates a generally high level of perceived safety across the state, alongside positive trends in the adoption of active security measures. It also reinforces the value of passive safety behaviours, which are often embedded in daily routines, influenced by culture, and developed over time. One of the most significant of these is knowing one's neighbours. This form of social connection contributes meaningfully to an individual's sense of security and community belonging. Neighbourhood Watch Victoria serves as a clear example of how building local relationships can strengthen community safety through shared awareness and collective responsibility.

These findings suggest that effective approaches to community safety must extend beyond the physical environment to include the ways individuals interpret and respond to risk in their everyday lives. It is also important to acknowledge the limitations of the data, particularly in regions with lower response rates and within under-represented populations. Improving accessibility and engagement, especially among culturally and linguistically diverse communities and lower socioeconomic groups, remains a key priority for future data collection and policy development.

In summary, this report provides a foundation for more inclusive and targeted community safety strategies. By integrating objective data with subjective lived experience, it offers a more comprehensive and equitable understanding of what it means to feel safe at home in Victoria.

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Appendix A

How Safe is My Place Questionnaire & Answer Selections

This appendix contains the full set of survey questions and a summary of participant responses.

Question	Answer Selections
How safe do you feel when you are in your home?	Scale Rating (1 - 10)
What type of home do you live in?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• House• Apartment• Unit/Townhouse• Farm
Do you rent or own this property?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rent• Own/Buying• Other
How well do you know your neighbours?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I know them very well, we socialise together and I leave a spare key with them.• I know them fairly well, we keep an eye on each other's places.• I know them to say hello and we talk occasionally, but that's it.• I don't know them.
Which of the following external doors does your home have?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Front door• Rear door• Side door• Balcony door• Garage access door
Are your entry (external) doors fitted with the following security measures?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solid core• Heavy duty frame and quality strike plate• Security screen door• Three or more door hinges• Reinforced or security glass• Quality keyed lock, three-point lock or deadbolt• Electronic, remote or keyless locking• One-way vision mesh, peephole or video doorbell• Tamper-resistant sliding door lock

Appendix A (cont.)

Which of these key steps do you follow to secure your household keys?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House and car keys, including spares, are always stored out of sight, behind a locked door • Keys not kept in locks • Spare keys kept with trusted friend, relative or neighbour
Does your home have any home security systems?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion sensors/detector • Unmonitored security system • Unmonitored security alarm • Window or door sensors • Security cameras in entry • Security footage stored safely
What safety measures do you already have in place at your home?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I keep a phone in my bedroom at night. • I have sensor lighting or timed lighting in my house for when I'm not at home. • My television and radio/stereo is timed to switch on or off when I'm not home. • I keep all my doors and window locked when I'm at home or in my yard. • Any manholes, pet doors or skylights are kept locked and/or bolted from the inside. • I have a dog.
Which of the following measures do you take to secure your valuables?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wallets, handbags, smartphones and jewellery stored safely out of sight. • Computers, televisions and other electronics not visible from outside. • Power tools kept out of sight or in securely-locked shed or garage. • Valuables photographed or videoed. • Serial numbers, makes and models of valuables recorded. • Valuables inscribed with a "V" plus driver's licence number. • Cash, jewellery and important documents kept in a secured, locked safe located out of sight.
Which of the following security measures do you have around the entry to your property?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House number is clearly displayed. • House number is visible at night. • Security camera faces entry. • Front door and entry can be seen from street. • Garden kept short and neat. • Motion sensor or timed lighting. • Letterbox can be secured with a keyed lock or padlock. • Neighbourhood Watch stickers visible.

Appendix A (cont.)

What fences does your property have?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front fence; rear fence • Front fence; side fence • Front fence • Rear fence; side fence • Not applicable
Which of the following security measures do you have in place for your front fence and gate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fence is see-through or low enough to allow an unobstructed view. • Fence is kept in good condition. • Front gate can be locked/bolted. • Vehicle gate is kept closed and locked. • Vehicle gate is automated and/or operates with a remote control.
Which of the following security measures do you have in place for your rear and side fences and gates?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fencing is in good condition. • Fencing is difficult to climb over. • Bins and other climbable obstacles stored away from fences, in a secure area. • Ladders are locked inside buildings. • Gates have quality keyed locks and/or lockable bolts.
Do you have any outdoor buildings such as sheds, a studio or granny flat?	Yes/No
Which of these security measures do you have on your outdoor buildings?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building secured to ground. • Solid core door and frame. • Quality keyed lock. • Lockable door bolt. • Quality window or patio locks. • Motion detector lighting.
Do you have a car?	Yes/No
Where do you park your car at home?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garage • Carport • Driveway • Street

Appendix A (cont.)

<p>Does your home have an enclosed garage?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Garage door remote always removed from car.• Main car access door kept closed and locked when not in use.• Pedestrian access doors kept locked at all times.• Sensor lighting at entry.• Pedestrian access doors are solid and have a deadbolt and heavy-duty strike plate.• Car access door has dedicated lock/bolt separate to electronic opener.
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Appendix B

Local Government Area Feel Safe Rating

This appendix contains the full list of Local Government Areas, their Average Feel Safe Ratings and whether they have an active Neighbourhood Watch group present.

Eastern Metropolitan Region		
Local Government Area	Average Feel Safe Rating	Neighbourhood Watch Group
City of Boroondara	7.87	Yes
City of Knox	7.65	No
City of Manningham	7.68	Yes
City of Maroondah	8.01	No
City of Monash	7.47	Yes
City of Whitehorse	7.97	Yes
Shire of Yarra Ranges	7.91	No
Eastern Regional Region		
City of Greater Shepparton	7.70	Yes
City of Latrobe	7.72	No
City of Wodonga	8.08	No
Rural City of Benalla	8.67	No
Rural City of Wangaratta	7.75	No
Shire of Alpine	8.83	No
Shire of Bass Coast	7.88	No

Appendix B (cont.)

Shire of Baw Baw	7.59	Yes
Shire of East Gippsland	8.07	Yes
Shire of Indigo	8.80	Yes
Shire of Mansfield	8.50	No
Shire of Mitchell	7.83	Yes
Shire of Moira	8.40	Yes
Shire of Murrindindi	7.36	No
Shire of South Gippsland	8.13	No
Shire of Strathbogie	7.43	Yes
Shire of Wellington	7.92	Yes
Northern Metropolitan Region		
City of Bannockburn	7.76	Yes
City of Darebin	7.49	No
City of Hume	7.31	Yes
City of Melbourne	7.28	Yes
City of Merri-bek	7.67	Yes
City of Whittlesea	7.33	Yes
City of Yarra	7.81	Yes
Shire of Nillumbik	7.81	No

Appendix B (cont.)

Southern Metropolitan Region		
City of Bayside	7.71	Yes
City of Casey	7.46	Yes
City of Frankston	7.26	Yes
City of Glen Eira	7.99	Yes
City of Greater Dandenong	7.32	Yes
City of Kingston	7.74	Yes
City of Port Philip	6.98	Yes
City of Stonnington	7.62	Yes
Shire of Cardinia	7.59	Yes
Shire of Mornington Peninsula	7.94	Yes
Western Metropolitan Region		
City of Brimbank	7.30	Yes
City of Hobson's Bay	7.15	No
City of Maribyrnong	7.69	No
City of Melton	7.28	Yes
City of Moonee Valley	7.43	Yes
City of Wyndham	7.19	Yes

Appendix B (cont.)

Western Regional Region		
City of Ballarat	7.72	No
City of Greater Bendigo	7.62	Yes
City of Greater Geelong	7.90	Yes
Rural City of Ararat	8.57	Yes
Rural City of Horsham	7.60	No
Rural City of Mildura	7.80	No
Rural City of Swan Hill	6.71	No
Shire of Buloke	9.33	No
Shire of Campaspe	8.19	No
Shire of Central Goldfields	8.50	Yes
Shire of Colac Otway	7.46	No
Shire of Corangamite	8.00	Yes
Shire of Gannawarra	7.30	No
Shire of Glenelg	7.64	No
Shire of Golden Plains	8.04	Yes
Shire of Hepburn	8.00	No
Shire of Hindmarsh	7.20	No
Shire of Loddon	7.51	Yes

Appendix B (cont.)

Shire of Macedon Ranges	8.15	No
Shire of Moorabool	8.52	Yes
Shire of Mount Alexander	7.61	Yes
Shire of Moyne	8.03	No
Shire of Northern Grampians	9.00	No
Shire of Pyrenees	9.00	No
Shire of Southern Grampians	9.67	No
Shire of Surf Coast	8.55	No
Shire of West Wimmera	6.50	No
Shire of Yarriambiack	7.00	No



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